

Jordan Times

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Agenda talks planned for OIC meeting

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — A preparatory meeting for the March 21-25 Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers conference will be held in Amman Saturday, an official announcement said Tuesday. The announcement said the meeting, to be chaired by Foreign Minister Secretary General Nabih Al-Nimer, would be attended by under-secretaries of Islamic countries and the OIC's general secretariat and would draw up an agenda for the foreign ministers meeting. Informal sources said that Saudi Arabia was to submit a proposal requesting the conference to discuss Iranian threats to send large numbers of pilgrims to Mecca this year and Saudi measures against any violation of the sanctity of the Holy City by Iranian pilgrims. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal will attend the conference, the sources said. In a related development, Nimer was quoted as saying by Al-Dustour Tuesday that the Foreign Ministry had information that Iran would be attending the foreign ministers meeting. Nimer said although he did not have any formal advice on Iranian participation he had reason to believe that Tehran would be sending a delegation to the meeting.

King visits S. Arabia today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein leaves for Saudi Arabia Wednesday for talks with Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on the new American plan for Arab-Israeli peace and the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Informed sources said Tuesday the King would brief the Saudi leader on the outcome of his latest talks with European leaders on Middle East peace efforts and discuss the latest developments in the region as well as the Iran-Iraq war. The King will be accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al-Qasbi, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, several Cabinet members and officials. The King has already consulted the leaders of Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, and Egypt on the new American peace plan. Jordanian officials have said that Jordan saw some "positive elements" in the plan and was studying the proposals. The King has invited Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for consultations on the proposals.

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Ibn Ali accepts King's invitation

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian President Zine Al-Abidine Ibn Ali Tuesday accepted an invitation extended to him by His Majesty King Hussein to visit Jordan. A date for the visit will be set later. The invitation was contained in a message which Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah delivered to the Tunisian president. In a statement to Petra, Abu Odah said the message dealt with the latest developments in the region and the positive international developments prompted by the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Abu Odah added that Ibn Ali voiced his appreciation of the efforts made by King Hussein to serve Arab causes and for his initiative to brief him on the political developments which followed the uprising. Abu Odah later left Tunis for Algeria and Morocco to deliver messages to the leaders of the two countries.

Prince Hassan meets Arab, Soviet delegates

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown-Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Tuesday members of the Arab and Soviet side participating in the Arab-Soviet Dialogue to begin Wednesday. The dialogue is organised by the Arab Thought Forum (see page 3).

Sayeh: Uprising will continue

NEW DELHI (AP) — Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al-Sayeh Tuesday accused Israel's "army of savage crimes in the occupied territories and called U.S. peace proposals 'nothing new'." Sayeh said the Palestinians were determined to continue the mass uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Sayeh and other members of the council were visiting India at the invitation of Indian legislators. "After 96 days we can confidently state that the Palestinian people are more determined to prolong their resistance until they achieve their goals in ending the occupation," he told a news conference.

Denmark slams Israel

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark denounced as "outrageous" Tuesday the beating of Palestinians by Israeli forces. Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen told parliament that attacks on Palestinian demonstrators in the three-month-old uprising in the occupied territories were "quite unacceptable." He said: "The policy of beatings is against every legal and moral standard. It is outrageous, and it seems quite incomprehensible particularly in a country such as Israel."

Panama expels U.S. diplomat

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama ordered a U.S. diplomat out of the country Tuesday amid increasing tension over U.S.-backed pressure to oust military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Terrence Kneebone, head of the public affairs office at the U.S. embassy, was told to leave within 48 hours because "his functions in Panama were incompatible with his diplomatic work," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, (see earlier story on page 8).

Arab killed in Deir Jerir; casualties unknown in Qalqilya clash

Israel bars Palestinians from travelling between W. Bank, Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops killed a Palestinian and wounded several others in clashes Tuesday as the army imposed tougher measures in the occupied territories, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

Residents of the occupied West Bank town of Qalqilya said violent clashes with the army took place Monday night and Tuesday. Journalists were barred from entering the town, declared a "closed military area."

The army confirmed the death, which raised the unofficial toll to 92 Palestinians in the 13-week-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian sources named the dead man as Arafat Abdul Aziz Hweih, 22, and said he was killed in a clash at Deir Jerir village near the town of Ramallah. A general strike declared by the secret Unified National Leadership of the Uprising was widely observed throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shops that had opened for three hours each day during the uprising remained closed all day. Public transport was on strike.

Most of the 60,000 Gaza labourers who worked in Israel before the uprising stayed home

replace the policemen who resigned.

The military banned fuel deliveries to the West Bank for a third consecutive day.

In Jerusalem, police said seven of 90 Palestinian officers had quit, the first such resignations in the occupied holy city.

Their action came after 500 Arafat police in the West Bank and Gaza heeded a call by the underground leadership to turn in their badges.

In an effort to break the growing influence of the campaign, the army banned Palestinians from travelling between the West Bank and Gaza.

An official of the military's civil administration said the measure applied to traffic in both directions and was open-ended.

"They are allowed to work in Israel, but they can't continue into (the West Bank) or vice versa. They would be turned back at a checkpoint," said the official.

The ban was the most comprehensive travel restriction imposed since Israel occupied the areas in 1967.

A doctor at Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem said Hweih arrived dead with a crushed jaw. He said there was no gunshot wound and the cause of death was unclear. The doctor quoted Hweih's family as saying he was shot by Israeli troops.

Journalists trying to enter Deir Jerir to inquire about the clash said the army had blocked all roads to the village and prevented their entry.

Palestinian sources said at least five people were wounded by Israeli gunfire and 10 others suffered from tear-gas inhalation in clashes in Qalqilya. One source put the casualty figure as high as 30.

Iraq, Iran keep up deadly missile duel and air attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said it fired six missiles into Tehran Tuesday and its air force bombed other Iranian cities. Iran said it pounded southern Iraqi towns with shells, short-range rockets and warplane raids.

Iraq said the shelling killed nine civilians in the war-battered city of Basra while Iran also reported deaths in the Iraqi raids.

In New York, the Soviet Union acknowledged it had failed to win support for a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an end to the deadly missile duel.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said six missiles were fired into the Iranian capital Tuesday, the last at 5:30 p.m. (1430 GMT). It had reported eight such missile strikes Monday.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said "a number" of civilians were killed in missile attacks on residential areas of the city overnight. It did not say how many rockets hit the city.

On Monday, Iran said missiles killed 26 civilians and wounded 50 in Tehran. Iraq also reported civilian casualties in Baghdad but gave no figures.

Iraq says it has fired 15 missiles into Tehran since the duel resumed with a single rocket fired into the Iranian capital Sunday night after a two-day truce. Iran has fired two into Baghdad.

An Iraqi spokesman said air strikes were launched on 11 other towns and cities, including Khomoin, 250 kilometres southwest of Tehran and birthplace of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"Let the Iranian rulers know that we are going to turn all Iranian cities into hell," vowed the Iraqi military spokesman.

Soviets concede failure

At the U.N., the Soviet Union acknowledged Monday it has failed to win support for a Security Council resolution calling for an end to the "war of cities."

The United States saw the proposal as a manoeuvre designed to deflect attention from the American push for a worldwide arms embargo against Iran to punish it for refusing to honour the council's July 20 ceasefire resolution and peace plan.

"In a negotiation for something to be a deadline, it has to be accepted as such by both sides and it has a certain meaning," Cordovez said. "If I don't think the Soviet Union itself wanted to give it that meaning."

"We are discussing very serious, difficult issues but we continue to negotiate and look for solutions," he said. He did not elaborate but his remarks were seen to be referring to Pakistan's insistence on linking the proposed settlement to the formation of a transitional Kabul government.

Cordovez said there were also some unresolved questions in the texts of the four agreements making up the peace package that has been negotiated for almost six years. But he noted that all sides had reaffirmed their determination "to conclude and sign."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady f. Gerasimov told reporters at a regular news briefing earlier Tuesday that there was only a "slim" chance the accords could be signed by the end of the day in Geneva. He blamed the situation on the insistence of Pakistani negotiators, who represent the Afghan rebels at the talks, that a coalition government be formed in Kabul.

"It is clearly that if the deadline for signing the documents is postponed, there will accordingly be a postponement in the withdrawal of the troops," Gerasimov said. In Geneva U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez, citing "difficult issues" still to be resolved, said the talks negotiations would continue.

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visits an exhibition showing restoration work at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Mosque (Petra photo)

King reviews restoration of holy shrines

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited an exhibition showing restoration work at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem and was briefed on progress of the project.

The exhibition, being held inside the King Abdullah Mosque by the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs and a special committee supervising the restoration work, also includes restoration of the tomb of the prophet Muhammad in the Haram Al Sharif Complex.

Rafael Nijem, a member of the special committee in charge of the restoration work, briefed the King on the progress of work.

The exhibition displays a collection of books and publications about the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the speakers of the two Houses of Parliament, Cabinet members and other senior officials.

Nijem, in a statement published in the local press last November said that nearly 95 per cent of the restoration work at the Al Aqsa Mosque had been

completed with most of the JD 2.5 million spent on the work coming from Jordan.

He said that a large section of the interior of the mosque, including Saladin Pulpit, was burnt in an arson perpetrated by Jewish extremists in 1969 and the Jordanian government began restoration of the damaged parts in 1970.

According to Nijem, the rebuilding of the pulpit, which is yet to be completed, will involve at least 31 technicians experienced in wood carving to set up a pulpit similar to that built by Saladin in 1187 A.D.

Shultz, Shamir reach deadlock

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday he had failed to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to soften his opposition to the Reagan administration's new Middle East peace plan.

Speaking at the State Department after a meeting with Shamir, Shultz told reporters: "We have discussed all the various elements and we have not found a way to bridge the differences."

President Ronald Reagan, in a speech to the United Jewish Appeal, said the United States would not try to pressure Israel into peace talks. But he stressed that "making progress toward peace in the Middle East not only serves mutual interests, it is urgent."

Shamir, who met briefly Monday with Shultz and Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, was scheduled to meet Tuesday with Treasury Secretary James Baker, congressional leaders and Republican presidential candidate Pat Robertson, a former television evangelist.

Shultz did not offer any details of his talks with Shamir, but the Israeli premier spoke of a major disagreement with the negotiation plan devised by Shultz and proposed to Arab and Israeli leaders.

"We are interested, first of all, to negotiate directly with all the parties concerned," Shamir said. "We do not see any positive role for an international conference."

Shultz's plan includes an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union,



Demonstrators march past the White House during a protest rally against visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

China, Britain and France. It would convene next month to set the stage for negotiations between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation by May 1.

Shamir contends that the Soviet Union and China, which do not have relations with Israel, would try to tilt the outcome in the Arabs' favour.

Shultz called his session with Shamir "very constructive and worthwhile," and said "we feel encouraged to continue our efforts to work with Israel and others in the Middle East to seek greater stability, constructive and peaceful relations in the region."

Shamir said their talk was "very serious and thorough." He pledged to cooperate with Shultz

and others in the U.S. government "to get peace and to enhance the prospects for peace in our area."

Reagan, who was scheduled to meet with Shamir Wednesday, assured the U.S. Jewish group in his speech that "we will not leave Israel to stand alone, nor will we acquiesce in any effort to gang up on Israel."


"Peace will not be imposed by us or by anyone else," Reagan said. "It will and must come from the genuine give-and-take of negotiations. That's what we're working to set in motion now."

A senior U.S. official closely involved in the administration's peace efforts said Monday no

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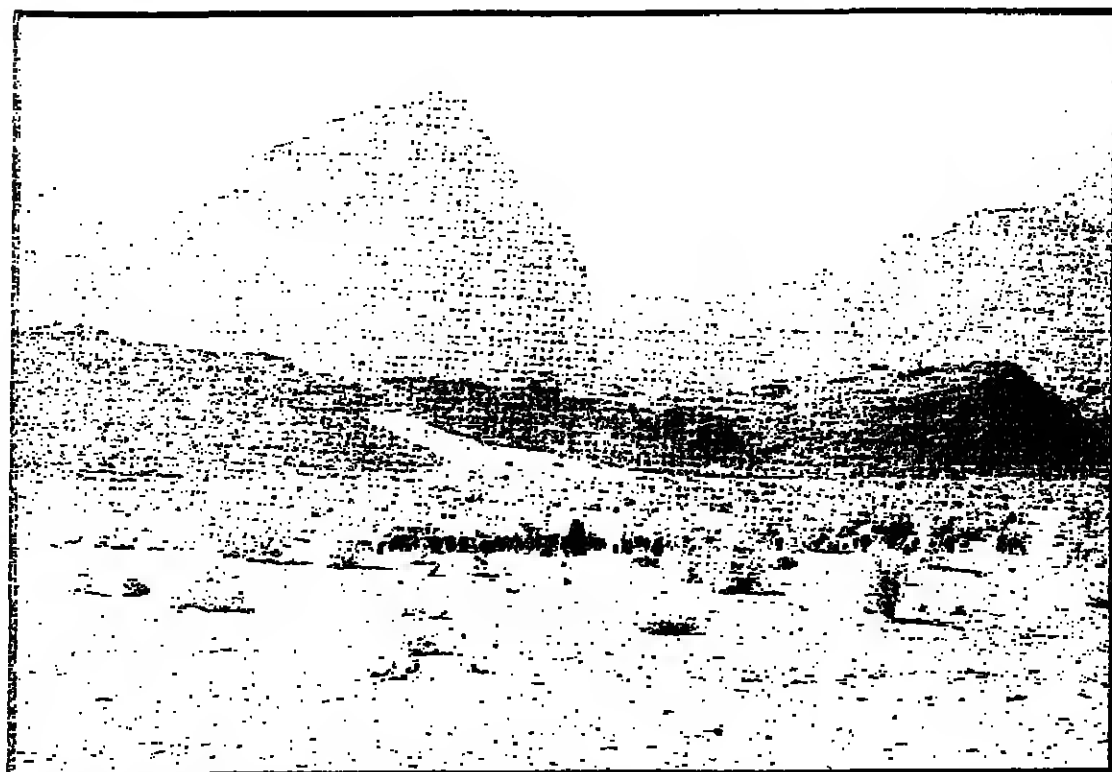


CONGRATULATIONS Arab Bank Ltd.

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Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the Prophetic Ascension.

May God grant Your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.



An abundance of nature at Wadi Rum (File photo)

Journeying through time, cultures and nature

By P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The bedouin life in Jordan has always been one of the focal points for many a tourist and traveller but very few have sought scientifically to gauge the depth of the nomads' attachment to the nature, and this is what an anthropologist from Portugal hopes to do in a few days of stay in the Kingdom.

Jose Antonio Capristano, who arrived here this week from Syria, says his main interest in life is the study of "people living in harmony with nature," and speaks of his conviction that "the more you are closer to nature the more civilised you are."

Capristano has an odyssey to tell about his travels through the world — from the highlands and deep jungles of Central America where life is in its raw form to the little known crevices of the Indian sub-continent where the Hindu way of life unfolds itself.

"Man in his natural habitat" is the central theme of Capristano's overland trip which has taken him to 96 countries, including Jordan. His current jaunt, which comes as part of national Portuguese commemorations of ancient discoveries, is mainly a filmed reconstruction of a 500-year-old trip by Portuguese explorers from Lisbon to Ethiopia and the 42-year-old anthropologist is taking time off also to record the life of people on his way.

The dominating philosophy of adoration for nature is evident in Capristano's every word. "I am sure that those who made this trip 500 years ago found it much easier than I do now," he commented. "Because they were not carrying heavy equipment and they did not have to waste time going through border formalities like I have to every time I cross from one country to another."

Capristano, who is accompanied by his wife Judite and cameraman and mechanic Joao Pedro

Freitas Fialho — who happens to be his brother-in-law — has already produced several documentaries and written several books. His Lisbon-Addis Ababa trip is organised by the Portuguese foreign ministry and sponsored by Central de Cervejas, a private brewery.

How does he feel being in Jordan? "From what I have seen so far, I am of course impressed by the hospitality of the people. We are indeed looking forward to our stay with the bedouin in Wadi Rum."

"Furthermore, every inch of the entire area — Syria and Jordan — reminds us of our Christian origin," he told the Jordan Times in an interview in the lobby of the hotel where the team stayed in Amman.

While Capristano chooses the topic and theme for filming, Judite, a journalist and mother of five, does the writing and her brother does the actual shooting.

'Explorer of the Year'

Capristano, a founder member



(From right) Jose Antonio Capristano, his wife Judite and their cameraman Joao Pedro Freitas Fialho (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

of the Tunis-based Club International des Grand Voyageurs and 1987 "explorer of the year," has dedicated himself to visiting new lands and familiarising himself with the way of life of people. He said he scoffs at the term "superior race" or "superior civilisation."

"There is no superior race anywhere in the world," he was emphatic. "Every human being is equal to the other, and the gauge of civilisation is simply how close you are to the environment and nature. For me, the most civilised people in the world are those who do not violate nature's laws."

For instance, he says, "the Indians living in the deep Amazon jungles of Brazil are so conscious of nature that when they move from one spot to another there will not be a single bit of waste left behind. Can you say the same thing for the 'civilised' people going on picnics in the 'modern world'?"

"Every man has his own style and way of life, religion and traditions dictated by natural elements," he said. "My interest is in familiarising myself with them. I am not interested in countries as I am in the people."

Capristano, a member of the British Royal Geographic Society, has filmed thousands of feet of film and over 35,000 slides and hundreds of thousands of photographs of every nook and corner he has visited since his first intercontinental trip which began in 1976. Given a choice, he will prefer to meet someone living in the desert than a VIP anytime, anywhere in the world. "I am trying to go back into nature as far as possible and it gets more and more fascinating every inch of the way."

"I have never encountered any problem in my trip through four continents," he said. "The reason is simple: Everything depends on how to communicate with people. One does not have to know the language since there are other ways of expressing yourself — with gestures and body movements. It is not difficult even to obtain directions from someone."

Capristano is in the final stage of finishing a book entitled "Portugal-China: An Expedition of the 20th Century" and is also working on a "museum of man" in Lisbon. He is fluent in four other languages — German, Spanish, French and English — besides his mother tongue Portuguese.

The explorer's Lisbon-Addis Ababa trip began in the Portuguese capital Feb. 13, 1988, and is expected to end in the Ethiopian capital in mid-May. From Jordan he will leave for Egypt and head for Ethiopia through Sudan.

After the conclusion of the trip, Capristano will embark on producing a television documentary series "People Without a Nation" focusing on the ancient tribes living in deep corners of Central America. He said he feels strongly about "re-settlement programmes" for some of these people. "They are following their own way of life and are extremely happy and content," he said. "It will be a crime to deprive them of their natural habitat and put them in a place where the way and style of life will be totally alien."

'Dead' Sea, says who?

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The irony of the Dead Sea is that it is not so dead; in fact, it is alive with a rich and natural concentration of mineral salts.

At 400 metres below sea level, the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea had for centuries been recognised as being a haven for relieving rheumatic and muscular pain, as well as other physical disorders.

Historian Josephus Flavius, believed to be the only authoritative chronicler on the legends of the Dead Sea, was apparently highly impressed with the "magic" of the Dead Sea. "[the Dead Sea] salt brings healing to the human body and therefore is mixed into many drugs," he wrote 2,000 years ago. Also, Cleopatra and the Queen of Sheba are among those known to have taken advantage of the luxuries of the Dead Sea shores.

Only last year did Jordan take advantage of the Dead Sea salts' benefits to the human body. Lisan, the bath salts product named after a Dead Sea peninsula, has been in the Jordanian market for the past year, and in the European market for the past few months. According to Lama Abbasi, sales promoter at Nabil Hassan and Partners Company, manufacturers of the mineral Dead Sea products, the local bath salts are finally competing with the Israeli products in the European market.

"Though the Israelis have been manufacturing these products, plus a full range cosmetics line, for seventeen years, we are now competing with them. We took a lot of their market, especially in West Germany," Abbasi told the Jordan Times, adding that the Israelis were the only manufacturers in the past.

She said the Israeli manufacturers try to make their bath salts look more natural by putting dirt and small bird feathers in the packets.

Abbasi said that it took her company a year and a half to obtain a reasonable market abroad. "But the Israelis definitely will not leave us the market; they'll think of something," she predicted, adding, "we will now see how the competitors react to the competition, and we'll react accordingly."

Abbasi pointed out that because of lack of Dead Sea spas in Jordan, they could not conduct any research on the bath salts in the country. She added that it has taken three and a half years of travelling abroad to study and obtain information conducted

over the years by the Israelis.

She went on to say that besides lack of facilities of Dead Sea spas in Jordan, it was very difficult to conduct research without the help of dermatologists and neurologists here. "They could have used the salts on some of their patients that needed it and followed up on the progress to see how well it works, but they would not cooperate," Abbasi noted.

The local market is finally picking up, but that the company's main market is abroad. "We still have a huge market ahead of us, keeping in mind that we are competing with seventeen-year-old manufacturers," she said, adding that in a few months, they will have feedback on their sales from both markets. She hopes that the Arab market will also pick up, noting that they already export large quantities to Saudi Arabia.

Why has it taken so long to produce Dead Sea bath salts in Jordan, although Israel has been doing so for seventeen years?

"This is a long, educational process where investors should not expect to make an immediate profit. We have a problem of shortsightedness here. We started out with so many partners in this project, but they all withdrew because they wanted quick returns, but we cannot really blame them," she answered, adding that the company plans on launching new products from the Dead Sea, including facial masks, cleansing tonic, and day and night creams.

Benefits of the Dead Sea

Jordanians also lack knowledge on the benefits and advantages of the sea's minerals, according to Abbasi.

The Dead Sea's salts, which are widely used in the West, relieves rheumatic pains, arthritis, rheumatism, and symptoms of circulatory disorders, such as swollen feet.

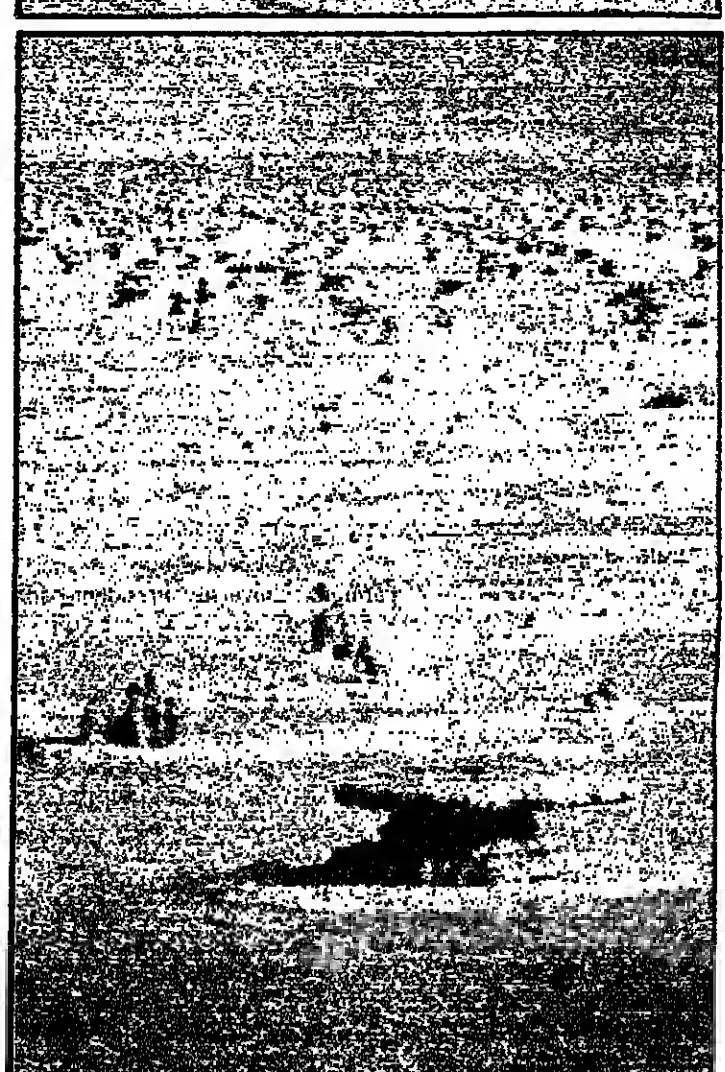
Besides blood circulation being improved, studies show that the minerals provide relaxation on the nervous system and symptoms of stress are minimised.

In addition to relief, the salts are a natural skin cleanser. They cleanse excess oil and skin impurities, remove dead cells yet retain essential moisture, and assist rapid cell renewal.

Many people from Western countries visit Dead Sea health spas in Israel as a form of natural treatment of skin diseases and disorders, such as acne, psoriasis (where the skin is covered by reddish spots and patches) and eczema (skin inflammation without that scale, crust or ooze fluids, often accompanied by intense itching).



Swimmers enjoy the warmth of the Dead Sea water (above) and floating (below) (File photos)



"Salt mushrooms" one of the unique salt crystal formations shaped by nature in the Dead Sea (File photo)

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17:40 Local series
18:25 Programme on Jordanian universities

PROGRAMME TWO

18:50 Champs Elysees
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20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Studio of Art
22:10 Wrestling
23:00 News summary in Arabic

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13:30 Pop Session
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14:00 Pop Session
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14:50 The Young Sound
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16:30 Instrumentals
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07:30 Report on Religion 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Meridian 09:00 World News 09:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
09:30 Development 10:15 Classical Record Review 10:30 Just a Minute
10:40 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Sports Roundup 11:45 Folk in Britain/Jazz Scene U.K. 12:00 News Summary: Omnibus 12:30 Yes Minister 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15 Byron Readings 13:25 A Letter from Wales 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Time for Verse 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 Development 16:15 Outlook: News 16:45 Report on Religion 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 A Hobby — or a Way of Life? 17:30 The Good Human Guide 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Rock Salad 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News
19:30 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsdesk 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsdesk America 22:30 News USA Jazz 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 06:10 World Report

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1280 & SW 1220, 965, 1740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 Newsdesk 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsdesk 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsdesk 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsdesk 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsdesk 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsdesk 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsdesk 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsdesk 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsdesk 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsdesk 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsdesk 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsdesk 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsdesk 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsdesk 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsdesk 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsdesk 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsdesk 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsdesk 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 06:10 World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ Book exhibition at the Comprehensive Commercial Centre (Tower Building), Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle (permanent).

★ Exhibition entitled "La terre entre vos mains" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 17).

★ Book exhibition at Arabian Club, Irbid (runs through March 17).

★ "Fifth Caricature Exhibition," works of the late Najj Al Ali at Hussein Camp Youth Activities Centre.

★ General book exhibition at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani.

★ Exhibition of artificial flowers, ceramics and handicrafts. Plaza Hotel from 10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m. (runs through 18/3/88).

★ Audio-visual material at Mu'ta Secondary Girls School at Mazar (runs through March 17).

★ An exhibition entitled "Reconstruction of Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock" at King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque.

★ Charitable bazaar at Housewives Society - Zarqa (runs through March 17).

★ La voie Lactée at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7
American Centre .. 644371
British Council .. 636147/8
French Cultural Centre .. 657005
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum," Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old, also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 639122.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

BAZAAR

★ Charitable bazaar at Housewives Society - Zarqa (runs through March 17).

FILM FESTIVAL

★ La voie Lactée at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:50 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:40 Athens (RJ)
17:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
18:15 London, Geneva (RJ)
18:30 Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
18:45 Bangkok (RJ)
18:45 Riyadh (RJ)
23:05 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

07:40 Karachi (RJ)
09:35 Cairo (RJ)
11:45 Kuwait (RJ)
12:10 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
15:00 Jeddah, Madinah (SV)
15:30 Baghdad (RJ)
21:00 Frankfurt (LH)
21:15 Paris, Laraca (AF)
22:25 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (RJ)
19:30 Dhahran (RJ)
19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:55 Baghdad (RJ)
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)
20:15 Cairo (RJ)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
08:30 Laraca, Zurich (SR)

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 (Sunrise) Doha
05:43 Doha
11:44 Doha
15:09 'Asr
17:48 Maghreb
19:06 'Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Monday rates

Local sell/buy rates in Jds
Belgian franc 95.9 / 97.6
Dutch guilder 178.5 / 181.7
French franc 59.2 / 60.2
Italian lira 27.2 / 27.6
Japanese yen (for 100) 261.4 / 266.1
Swedish crown 56.5 / 57.4
Swiss franc 242.6 / 246.8
U.K. sterling pound 614.1 / 625.8
U.S. dollar 335.3 / 340.3
W. German mark 200.5 / 240

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and sunny with north-westerly variable winds and slight increase in temperature. In Agaba, the winds will be northwesterly and calm seas.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 12 / 24
Deserts 2 / 20
Jordan Valley 9 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Agaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Agaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Queswasah 70733
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood Bank 661111
Civil Defence rescue 623090-3
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 8963901
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 634881
Municipal water complaints 771125/8
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)5330060

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar 775050
Dr. Mahmoud Jabb 896691
Dr. Wail Khartab 615035
Dr. Anwar Al-Agrawal 642590
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 78336
Al Asema pharmacy 637053
Naitroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 836730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

TAXI

Al Jofeh taxi 776061
Al Qaisi (Abu Joudah) taxi 743806
Wisam taxi 776273
Ra'ad taxi 896633
Rawda taxi 741572
Umayya taxi 775090
Muab taxi 893092

IRRD:

Dr. Samir Al Qudsi (-)
Yassin's pharmacy 778525

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989601
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

GENERAL

Jordan Television 77311/19
Radio Jordan 77411/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 661126
Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 17
Overseas calls 11
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (French) 420 / 360
Apple (green) 470 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukannar) 300 / 240
Beans 650 / 530
Beans (broad) 220 / 180
Cabbage 220 / 180
Carrot 260 / 200
Cauliflower (white) 170 / 120
Cucumbers 280 / 200
Dates (box) 700 / 600
Eggplant (large) 250 / 200
Eggplant (small) 260 / 200
Garlic 140 / 100
Garlic (green) 280 / 200

HOME BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving an amendment to the Jordanian Press and Publication Law which had been approved by both houses of parliament. The amendment grants publishers the right to appeal in case their licences are cancelled or withdrawn. But under article 13 of the law the government, upon recommendation from the Minister of Information could cancel the licence and close down the establishment, if it published anything considered harmful to national security.

HEALTH MEETING: The Arab Health Ministers Council will hold a five-day meeting in Amman early next month under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, according to an official announcement Tuesday. Earlier Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced that the projected Arab Hospital of Jerusalem will be among the main topics to be taken up by the ministers of health, who will be reviewing general health conditions in the occupied Arab territories, and topics of concern to the Arab nation at large.

PHARMACISTS: The 4th Jordanian Pharmacists Conference is due to open in Amman on April 6 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. A spokesman for the Jordanian Pharmacists Association JPA, which is organising the conference, said that delegates from Arab countries and Arab pharmacists unions will take part in the three-day conference. JPA President Tayseer Al Himsi will hold a press conference on Monday April 4 to give details about the conference and the working papers which will be reviewed by the participants.

GYNAECOLOGISTS: The Health Ministry will take part in a pan-Arab meeting for gynaecologists and obstetricians, due to be held in Algiers on April 16.

LEAGUE COUNCIL: Jordan's permanent representative to the Arab League will head the Jordanian delegation to the 89th Arab League Council session, due to convene in Tunis at the end of this month.

BULGARIANS DEPART: A two-member Bulgarian Red Cross delegation has left Amman at the end of a five-day visit to Jordan during which they met with Jordanian ministers and other officials, and toured Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) centres. The delegation discussed with JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura matters of mutual concern and means of promoting bilateral cooperation in humanitarian affairs.

OIL SHALE: The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will take part in a five-day international conference on oil shale, due to be held in the Peoples Republic of China on May 16.

ENERGY AGREEMENT: A delegation from Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, headed by Jordan Electricity Authority Director General Mohammad Said Arafat, will hold talks with Czechoslovak officials on bilateral relations in the field of energy, and will sign an agreement on bilateral cooperation with them during his week-long visit to Czechoslovakia next week.

HISTORY OF JORDAN: Antiquities Department Director General Adnan Al Hadidi will represent the department at the preparatory committee meetings, which will be held in France Thursday, to prepare for holding the 4th International Conference on the History of Jordan.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: The Jordanian government has received an official invitation from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, to take part in a 4-day regional symposium, due to convene on June 13.

BANGLADESHI ENVOY: The Jordanian government has accepted the nomination of Qadi Ghulam as Bangladeshi ambassador to Jordan.

LIFE SENTENCE: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict, sentencing Tayseer Mohammad Su'efa, fugitive from law, to life imprisonment with hard labour after finding him guilty of trafficking hashish.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT: Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday received the Japanese Volunteers Programme Coordinator in Jordan, who presented audio equipment to the languages centre.

BROADCASTING TALKS: Jordan Radio and Television Corporation will take part in a meeting of the Arab Broadcasting Union Satellite Programmes Committee, which will be held in Madrid on April 13.

EDUCATION TALKS: A delegation from the Ministry of Education will travel to the United Arab Emirates on April 2 on an official visit and talks on promoting bilateral cooperation in education related fields. The delegation to the five-day visit groups directors of education in Amman, Maan, Jerash, Ajloun and Qoura districts.

DISTANCE EDUCATION: Three Canadian distance education specialists are on a one-week working visit to Al Quds Open University (QOU). The visitors, Barry Makinson, manager of curriculum development, and Ted Sutton, coordinator of international education, both are from British Columbia Institute of Technology and Shannon Timmers, director of International Development and Open Learning Agency of British Columbia, (formerly Open Learning Institute and Knowledge Network), are presenting workshops to QOU staff on curriculum development. Funding support for this activity was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency.

POSTAL TRAINING: Jordan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a project document on "Postal Training" under which 14 employees from Jordan will be obtained training on postal matters in Japan, Egypt, the Netherlands and Denmark. The project will be executed by the Universal Postal Union and financed by UNDP at £50,000, according to the programme which was signed by Minister of Planning Taber Kanaan and UNDP Resident Representative in Amman Tawfiq Ben Amara.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A new batch of People's Army recruits were graduated Tuesday at North Shouneh Secondary School, at a special ceremony attended by North Shouneh People's Army commander and officials. Meanwhile, Ajloun District Governor Mohammad Talhouni Tuesday discussed with the Ajloun People's Army commander issues pertaining to People's Army training courses due to start on March 26.

RENTED SCHOOLS: Ajloun District Governor Mohammad Talhouni Tuesday discussed with Education Department Director Aref Salah issues pertaining to rented school premises in villages of the district, in addition to preparations for holding the third Karamah Festival at Ajloun Intermediate Community College on April 14.

JD 2.25M INVESTMENT: Government investments in development projects in Irbid district, Irbid, totals JD 2.25 million this year, compared with JD 1.5 million during last year.

INTERNAL TOURISM: Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni Tuesday discussed with Balqa Governor Mujib Khreisha difficulties facing internal tourism in the governorate and means of promoting it.

95,000 TREES: A total of 95,000 forest trees have been planted recently in Jerash district, 21,000 of which were planted on the Arbor Day on Jan. 15.

EXPORTS TO FINLAND: Jordan's Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan Tuesday discussed with Jordan's honorary consul to Finland scopes of cooperation in the field of marketing agricultural products, in preparation for holding a meeting between Finnish importers and AMPCO officials for talks on exports to Finland.

TALK ON WRITERS: The American Centre will host a talk Thursday by Dr. Randall Ackley of Yarmouk University on three contemporary writers working in different regions of the United States. The writers who will be discussed are Sheila Bunker Nickerson, a descendant of early colonial settlers, who lives in Juneau, Alaska; Leslie Marmion Silko, of Pueblo Indian and Mexican heritage, who lives in Tucson, Arizona; and Seamus Heaney, an Irish writer who is presently a visiting professor at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The talk will focus on how the writers' various environments influence their work.

ABU GHAZALEH: Dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Science and Technology Bassam Abu Ghazaleh Tuesday left for Qatar to take part in a conference on construction and designing of engineering laboratories, which is organised by Qatar University in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.



Her Majesty Queen Noor takes part in literacy learning workshop at Amra Public Garden Tuesday (Petra photo)

Committee to help Palestinians meet financial commitments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Supporting the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Arab Territories Tuesday announced measures intended to help Palestinian people under occupation to meet their financial commitments.

According to these measures: — All premiums on housing loans from the Housing Bank given to families of martyrs or those serving or had already served at least five years in Israeli jails will be written off.

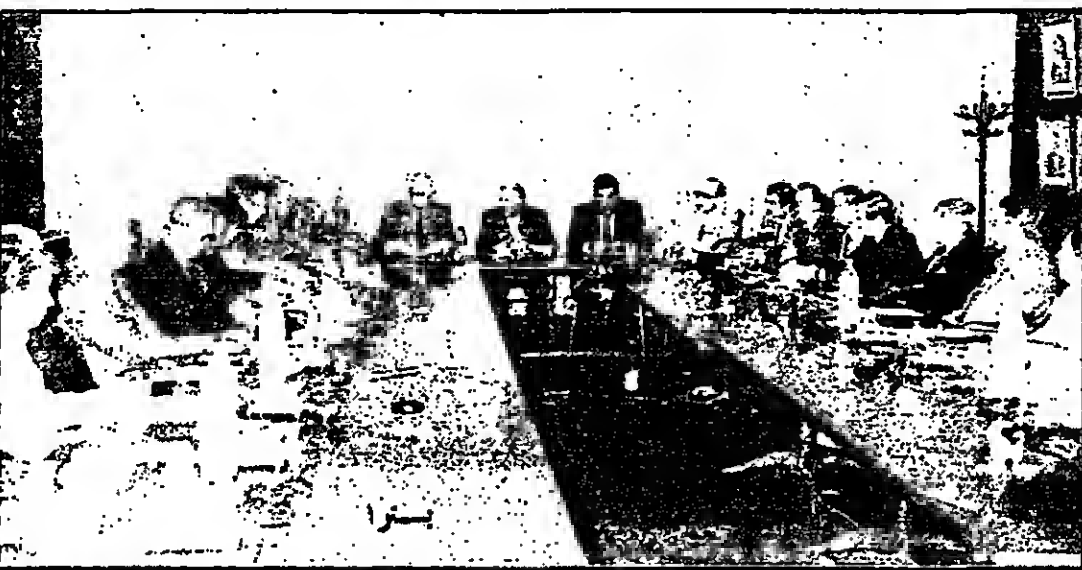
— All premiums on housing loans obtained from the joint committee by Palestinians living in the occupied territories, and

are already due or will be due by the end of 1986 will be postponed.

— All housing loans already granted, or will be given in the future to the people of the occupied Arab territories, by the joint committee will be rescheduled to become payable over 25 instead of 15 years.

A joint committee statement said that the measures were taken in view of the very difficult conditions of the people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On March 12 the joint committee announced the allocation of 32 million for financing projects in the occupied territories.



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez receives the Finnish Passikivi Council in Amman Tuesday (Petra photo)

'Finland to support all peace efforts'

AMMAN (Petra) — Finland will continue to explore all possibilities, and support all efforts, to help establish peace in the Middle East and guarantee security for all the countries in this region, the leader of a visiting Finnish delegation said in Amman Tuesday.

Jaakko Ikonniemi, who heads delegation from the Finnish Passikivi Council currently visiting to Jordan, told Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayez that nearly 20,000 Finnish soldiers were involved in the operations of the U.N. peace keeping force in the Middle East area since 1947, thus contributing to the peace process.

Ikonniemi expressed his country's satisfaction with Jordan's appreciation of Finland's role, within the Scandinavian group and at the United Nations, towards bringing about peace in the Middle East.

He said that Finland is committed to working for this cause and

one should not lose hope about achieving this noble goal.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Finland has created real appreciation, among the Finnish people, of Jordanian endeavours for peace.

Fayez told the delegation that Jordan was keen on establishing a just and honourable peace through an international conference, attended by all concerned parties.

Fayez briefed the group on King Hussein's efforts towards implementing U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and talked in length about Israel's practice in the occupied territories and its violations of international principles.

Fayez also referred to the Gulf war and criticised Iran for its refusal to accept peace.

He briefed the 43-member delegation on developments in Jordan's parliamentary life.

Two other speakers at the meeting included deputies Rizk

Queen takes part in literacy learning workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday took part in a literacy learning workshop, held at the Amra Public Garden, and participated in the debate which followed a lecture delivered by David Doake of the Canadian Acadia University.

Doake's lecture focused on the new methods for teaching children, whom he described as "born with the ability to learn to use the languages."

The three-week workshop, which is organised by the Friends of Children Club in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), tackles subjects relevant to promotion of the habits of reading and writing.

The workshop also tries to bring about a better understanding of the role played by both the school and family, in developing and promoting children's reading and writing skills.

Tuesday's session was attended by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh, the director general of Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the chairman of the Friends of the Children Club.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday attends the celebrations on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast at Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman (Petra photo)

Crown Prince attends religious celebrations at Al Hussein Mosque

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday delegated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to attend a major religious celebration held at the Hussein Mosque, downtown Amman, on the eve of the Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast.

ment departments and public institutions are closed Wednesday and all liquor stores, bars and nightclubs will remain closed until Thursday morning.

Special symposium

The ceremony which was organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs was addressed by prominent Muslim scholars including the Minister of Awqaf Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

In a major address to the ceremony, the minister spoke about the Israa feast and the situation in Arab Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque under Israeli occupation. The minister referred to the

current Palestinian people's uprising in the face of Israel's oppression, describing it as part of the continued Islamic struggle for regaining the Holy Shrines and liberating the Arab territories.

Religious ceremonies will be held in different mosques around the country Wednesday to mark the holy occasion.

On the occasion all govern-

Also Tuesday a special symposium, on meanings of the Israa Wal Mi'raj and the lessons learned from the Prophet's nocturnal journey, was held at the University of Jordan.

Participants hailed the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories, saying it demonstrates the Muslims' united will to liberate the occupied Holy Arab City of Jerusalem.

ATF opens Arab-Soviet dialogue today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Wednesday opens an Arab-Soviet dialogue in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan, along with noted personalities and intellectuals in the Arab World and the Soviet Union, will participate in the meetings which will tackle subjects of mutual concern, according to ATF's Secretary General Saadeddin Ibrahim.

Ibrahim said that the meeting assumes added significance, being the first of its kind ever to be held, and coming in the wake

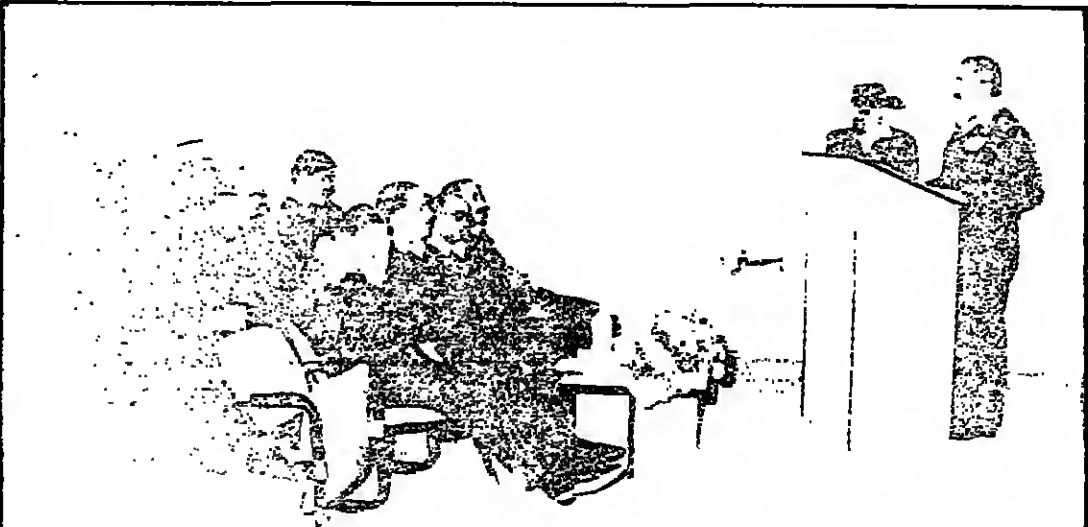
of important events on the Arab World, such as the Amman Arab summit meeting, and the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

"This dialogue is regarded as an important event, also because it comes amid current international efforts to put an end to the Gulf conflict — in view of the ongoing war of cities between Baghdad and Tehran — the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and the new trends in the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policies," Ibrahim added.

He said the Arab-Soviet dialogue draws its importance from the subjects it will be addressing,

the numerous working papers that will be reviewed by the delegates and the discussions that will follow.

The participants, Ibrahim noted, will tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Soviet Union's stand with regards to the Palestine question; Moscow's stand vis-a-vis the Iran-Iraq war; its relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries; the Lebanese question; the security problems in Asia and the Middle East; United States and Soviet attitudes towards resolving the Middle East crisis and Moscow's relations with Sudan and other countries in the Horn of Africa.



OFFICERS GRADUATE: Public Security Department Director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali Tuesday addresses graduating officers from an advanced police training course and a criminal investigation course, at a special ceremony held Tuesday at the Police Academy. Taking part in the advanced training course were 23 officers, while the second course was attended by 24 officers (Petra photo)

Amman to have new detours during Islamic ministers talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of Thursday 17 March, a new system of detours will be implemented in certain parts of the Greater Amman for the duration of the 17th Islamic Foreign Ministers conference scheduled to convene in Amman on March 21.

According to Colonel Abdul Raouf Hussein, deputy director of the capital's Traffic Police, these measures will be adopted "to facilitate the movement of traffic in the area and to avoid traffic jams."

The detours will be implemented as follows: Those driving from Istiqlal Street towards Suwaileh and West Amman, would drive past the Physical Education College — Martyrs Monument — and the detours of the Hussein Sports City.

Those going from Istiqlal Street towards Shmeisani and Tlaa Al Ali, should drive either past the Physical Education College and the Sports City detours or through Jabal Al Hussein.

From Jabal Al Hussein to Shmeisani and Tlaa Al Ali — through the Sports City detours or Frere Street, Ruwaibad Entrance, and the Urban Development building.

— From Public Security work-

shops towards Shmeisani and Jabal Amman — drivers should pass the Martyrs Monument, Sports City detours, Al Otaibi detours towards Shmeisani and Jabal Amman.

— From Sports City area towards Jabal Al Hussein — past the Martyrs Monument, Public Security workshops, Hamzah Street, Istiqlal Street-Jabal Al Hussein.

— From Suwaileh towards Adman — past the Sports City detours, Eighth Circle, the University Bridge, Jubilee Circle, Mecca Street.

— From Suwaileh towards Marka — Pass Almahatta, down town Amman, Zarqa, Sports City detours, Martyrs Monument, Public Security workshops.

— From downtown towards Shmeisani, Tlaa Al Ali, Um Summaq, Wadi Sir, Suwaileh — drive through Prince Mohammad Street and Wadi Saqra Street.

Col. Hussein also pointed out that policemen have asked all those who park around the Plaza Hotel to stop parking there as of Thursday March 17.

Col. Hussein also hoped that all drivers would pay attention to the direction signs to facilitate the process.

Hamzeh inaugurates health centre

MA'AN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday inaugurated a health centre in Uthruh in Ma'an Governorate, thus bringing to 13 the number of health centres in the area.

Hamzeh later discussed the health situation in the governorate with Ma'an Governor Jamal Al Momani and decided to convert Ma'an Health Centre into a comprehensive centre, providing specialised health services.

The Health Ministry has opened a training course for doctors and veterinarians on diseases common to man and animal.

The course aims to orient the participants on means of averting the transmission of animal diseases to man and also combating the disease among animals.

According to Dr. Ali Assad from the Ministry of Health, he said the Ministry of Health has invited Dr. Ahmad Izzat from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to lecture on this subject and help Health Ministry specialists with this task.

Society studies smoking among students

AMMAN — The Jordanian Chest and Heart Diseases Society is currently involved in a study on smoking among university students.

The society's team dedicated to this task, which groups professors from the four Jordanian universities, is expected to publish its findings in the coming months,

according to the Society's President Dr. Abdullah Al Qudah.

He said that the project which is being financed by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) is expected to benefit planners and various health organisations.

The society, he said, will organise a seminar on smoking in

June and will sponsor a cross country race in the coming month to promote its activities.

Qudah complained that although the society's aim was to spread awareness among members of the public about health matters it lacks proper funds and sufficient subscribers.

Hawamdeh requests part of festival of Jerash revenues for municipality

JERASH (Petra) — Jerash Mayor Mohammad Hawamdeh has submitted a request to a national committee organising the Jerash Festival of Culture of Arts, asking that Jerash merchants be allowed to market their produce within the festival site, in the ancient city, during the coming festival.

The request, submitted to the festival's Director Akram Masarweb, at a meeting with the Jerash

district governor Tuesday, also requested that part of the festival's revenues be given to the Municipality of Jerash.

The meeting, which was attended by heads of local government departments and representatives of private and public organisations, reviewed arrangements for the coming festival, which will be held in July.

District Governor Rateh Al Majali proposed that a prepara-

tory programme be worked out, specifying the contribution of the Jerash district in general and the city of Jerash in particular, to the coming event.

Masarweb said his teams are holding contacts with all parties involved in the festival, and making arrangements for hosting the participating folk troupes.

A decision was taken to hold monthly meetings to coordinate work related to the Jerash Festival.

Jordan Times

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 Established 1975

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
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 Jordan Times advertising department.

A price for dignity

THE mass resignation of Palestinians from Israel's police force in the occupied West Bank and Gaza is an emphatic reminder to those who think the anti-occupation uprising is a short-lived "wave of protests" which will fade away. If anything, the organised depletion of the Arab segment of the Israeli police force in the occupied territories has done away with the last trace of doubt whether the Palestinians under Israeli rule could sustain the momentum of the uprising.

Of course, one cannot overlook the repercussions of the mass police resignation on individual security in the occupied territories. But it is a price that will have to be paid. Unruly elements are present in the West Bank and Gaza, as everywhere else, and the life and property of all need to be protected, but not at the cost of the struggle for freedom and dignity which has already claimed over a hundred lives since Dec. 9.

The show of unity of cause and purpose of the 1.5 million Palestinians that we have seen in the past three months suggests that the same organised leadership that has been guiding the uprising is also capable of ensuring that the law and order situation within the Palestinian community is maintained.

By the same token, it is paradoxical that the Israeli occupation authorities are "concerned" over the "possible increase in crimes" in the occupied territories in the absence of a police force. Strange as it is, coming from the perpetrators of the crime of occupying other people's land and subjecting the occupied to every form of brutality in the book — and indeed some not in it — the Israeli "concern" is not over the possible deterioration of civic life in the occupied territories, but over the political implications of the mass police resignation. It also reveals that there are level-headed people in the Israeli hierarchy who have understood the message: The time has come for Israel to pack up and leave the West Bank and Gaza, for the occupied Palestinians will no longer accept the status quo.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shamir at home

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived in Washington as the uprising in the occupied Arab territory entered its 100th day as the world looks with horror at Israel's atrocities and terrorist actions against the Arab population. Before arriving in the American capital, Shamir said again that his government will not bow to any pressure from the United States towards contemplating measures that would eventually lead to a durable peace in the Middle East. He said he will not withdraw Israel's forces from the lands occupied since 1967 nor will he agree to any Palestinian demands for their rights in their homeland. As Shamir arrived, he found a gift awaiting him from the U.S. Congress which had ruled that the PLO office in New York should be closed this month. It was a gift for what Shamir and his government and soldiers were doing to the Arabs in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We do not know yet Washington's reaction to Shamir's demands and stands with regard to this issue, and we do not yet know whether Washington will be willing to pursue its own peace efforts after the visit, or if it will ever be able to exercise any pressure on its Israeli ally to reach a settlement. We believe that the U.S. will not question Shamir about his crimes against the Arabs and will rather offer him more aid because it will be confronted with a difficult task of trying to persuade Shamir to change his position.

Al Dustour: Shamir in Washington

YITZHAK Shamir has been adamant in his stand with regard to the idea of an international peace conference and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's new proposals for peace. The United States which Shamir is visiting now realises this Israeli stand; and though some official circles in Washington had expressed discontent with it, the U.S. administration has announced in advance that no pressure will be exercised on Israel to make Shamir change his mind. It is clear therefore that the ball is still in the U.S. court, and that the two shuttle missions of Shultz in the Middle East are still unproductive and call for other actions. Washington ought to come up with new ideas and bring more pressure on Israel now if it really wants its proposals to be accepted, and if it really seeks peace. Having heard the U.S. declare that no pressure will be exerted on Shamir, we can only believe that the U.S. is not serious in its efforts to help the Arabs and the Israelis make peace. What we believe is that Shamir will show Washington more intransigence and more extremism, and will prove once again that Washington cannot act as a peace broker in our region. The U.S. is now before a real test to prove its good intentions and its determination to pursue the course of peace, and we believe that only if Washington played a neutral role and tried to exercise pressure on Israel can progress towards a settlement be achieved.

Sawt Al Shaab: Exposing Shamir

SHAMIR'S visit to the United States presents another chance to expose the Israeli government's real image as presenting an obstacle to peace. Shamir is trying to delay Israel's reply to the American proposals on the Middle East under the pretext of persisting divisions within his cabinet and has been instead demanding an implementation of the Camp David agreements to resolve the Middle East problem. Shamir's visit to the United States is important because Washington holds the power to exercise pressure on Israel and because numerous U.S. senators have already expressed their dissatisfaction with Israel's attitude and its continued inhuman practices against the Arab population.

CS tear gas a form of chemical warfare?

By Donald E. Wagner

ON February 9, I visited Dahaiha refugee camp near Bethlehem in the Israeli occupied West Bank. A nine-year-old boy, who had narrowly escaped being kidnapped by militant Israeli settlers near his home the previous day, brought me a used tear gas canister which had been shot into Dahaiha during the weekend. I was then taken to the home of a young mother of 24 who was seven months pregnant until 9 February. A tear gas canister was shot into her home during the dinner hour. The next day she lost the baby. We walked up to the house to pay a condolence visit and her sister said: "She is not here. She had to go to the hospital this morning for an operation."

The tear gas canister was a silver cylinder, approximately one and a half inches in width and six inches in length. As I examined it, a fine black powder fell from the three holes at its base. I could feel the powder affect my eyes and sting a cut on my face.

Written on the canister was the following text: "MK 11, 560CS" in bold letters. Immediately below was written "150-yard Long Range Projectile," followed by the emblem of Federal Laboratories (a knight in armour clutching a spear). Below the emblem, in smaller letters were the following instructions: "To be used by trained personnel only. WARNING: May start fires. Must not be fired directly at persons as death or injury may result. For outdoor use only. FEDERAL LABORATORIES, INC. Saltzburg, Pennsylvania 15681, USA." The concluding line on the canister was equally instructive: "Made in the USA 123456789 MFG 1988."

The next day I visited an Israeli professor of chemistry at the Hebrew University who analysed the tear gas. He noted that Israel had been using two types of tear gas but generally employed the CN variety, which is used throughout the world in over 95 per cent of the crowd control incidents. The CN variety carries the chemical formula "omega-chloroacetophenone." This type comes in liquid form and while potent as an immobilising measure, its effects wear off within three to four hours. Exposing the victim to fresh air and washing with an ammonia-water solution reduces the effects. It is not lethal.

Since January 1988, and possibly before, Israel has been using

the CS type of tear gas in the occupied territories. Canisters are available in refugee camps, villages and cities throughout the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza.

"Made in the USA 123456789 MFG 1988."

The CS type carries the chemical formula "ortho-benzylidene-malonite". It comes in a solid black powder form and can be activated in a variety of ways: Dropped from helicopters, shot from tear gas guns, or ignited by hand and thrown or dropped. CS is lethal when consumed in intense doses, particularly within enclosed areas. Infants, elderly persons, and those suffering from heart, respiratory or related ailments are particularly subject to death or serious complications. There is no known antidote for the CS powder, which enters the respiratory system and lodges in the blood cells, fatty tissues, and mucus membranes. Also, the fine black powder can stick to the skin and cause burning welts on the body. It sticks to clothing, walls, and carpeting and will remain there for days. The long term effects, and whether it is carcinogenic, are not known.

Particularly distressing is the effect of CS tear gas on pregnant women and the unborn foetus. According to physicians at one hospital in Gaza, whom I interviewed in January, over 35 deaths of foetuses had occurred in the last three months of pregnancy in their hospital alone, all from tear-gassing. One should bear in mind that this is one hospital which serves one sector of Gaza, and many cases from the refugee camps do not reach the hospital. Doctors say that most cases are not reported, as mothers are fearful of military retaliation at hospitals and simply recover at home. The same applies throughout the West Bank. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has begun an epidemiological study and believes intra-uterine foetal death is a widespread and serious phenomenon in the uprising.

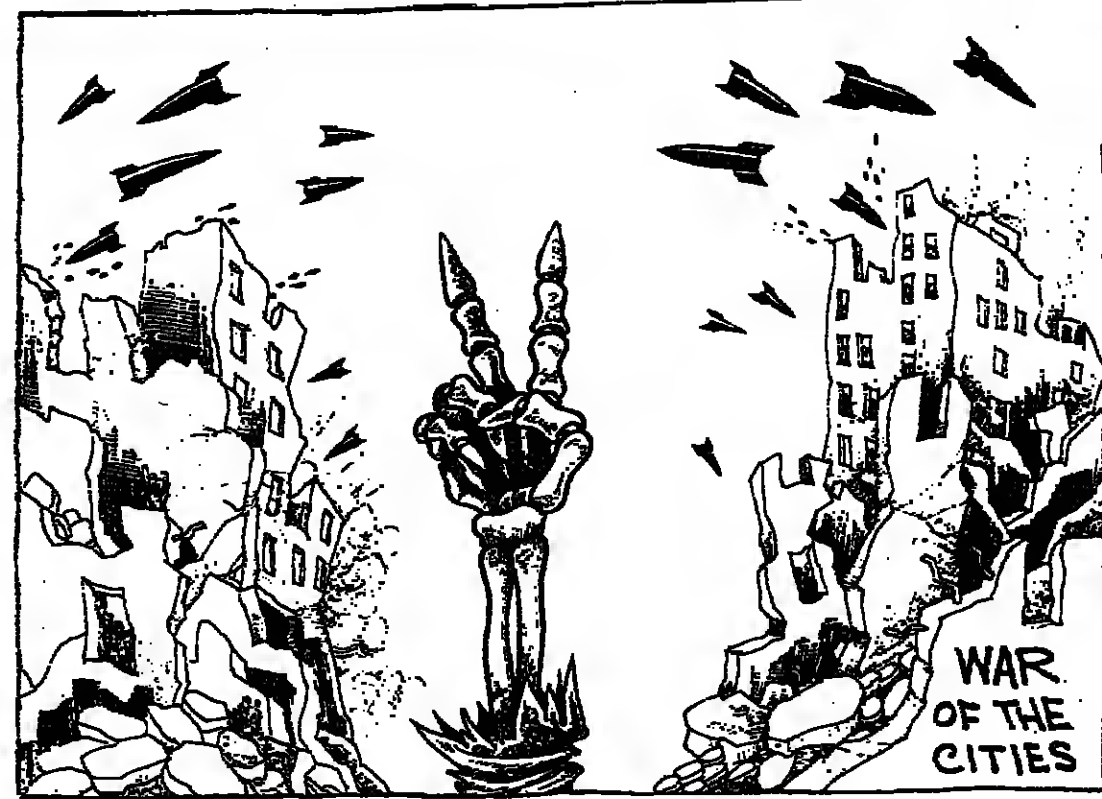
Dr. Jennifer Leaning, of Harvard medical school, visited the occupied territories in early February 1988 with a delegation from Physicians for Human Rights, a U.S.-based medical and human rights organisation. At a press conference in Jerusalem, on February 11, she noted that there

is no question that the CS type of tear gas can be lethal, especially when fired into rooms averaging 10'x15'x15', which is being done. The literature and research on tear gas does not deal with the question of intra-uterine foetal deaths.

It is not clear what causes abortions after mothers are exposed to high concentrations of tear gas (research is inadequate on all deaths and other medical complications caused by tear gas). It is probable that the gas affects the oxygen supply and blood circulation to the foetus. It is also possible that the chemical breakdown within the blood system causes death from toxins (as with cyanide). Additional research must be done immediately and blood samples must be analysed within a few hours of the abortion. Obviously, the physicians serving the Palestinian population are so overtaxed with the brutalities from all aspects of Israeli practices that they are unable to focus on the analysis necessary to provide answers. Physicians have contacted Israeli officials and the American manufacturer of CS tear gas, requesting information on the treatment of victims. As of mid-February they have not received a single response to their appeals.

In the light of the above evidence, the question must now be raised as to whether Israel is employing a form of chemical warfare against the Palestinian civilian population in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Urgently needed is up to date information on the use of CS tear gas in other situations of unrest, and its status under international law. Further medical analysis is needed at once in the occupied territories to ensure accurate data on death from tear-gassing and intra-uterine foetal death. Careful investigation of the medical, legal, and chemical aspects of CS tear gas must proceed at once. Finally, human rights and legislative bodies in the United States need to assess whether the shipment of CS tear gas to Israel in January 1988 is in violation of the Congressional Arms Export Control Act (1977) or other instruments which should limit or prevent such practices.

The Rev. Donald Wagner is currently on sabbatical from his position as Director of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign, USA. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.



Arab hospital where politics overcomes pain

By Ian Black

WITH his thin moustache and close-cropped hair, Nabil looks much younger than his 23 years. Propped up awkwardly on his bed in the Magasid Islamic Hospital in East Jerusalem, he smiles shyly at the empty space where his lower right leg used to be.

Nabil has talked about his wound many times since January 9, when his part in a stone-throwing demonstration in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis ended abruptly with a high-velocity Israeli bullet which penetrated his inner thigh, severing the vascular supply and badly damaging the nerve.

Hours passed before he was taken to Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv, where an emergency skin graft proved unsuccessful. By the time he arrived at Magasid, gangrene had set in and amputation below the knee was the only course left.

Nabil is one of about 40 Palestinians hospitalised here with serious wounds resulting from gunshots or beatings sustained during the 12-week uprising against the Israeli occupation. If he has any regrets about his injury, he is not saying so.

"Yes," he answers, "I think it has been worthwhile. We have succeeded in putting our cause back on the world's agenda." Nabil needs an artificial leg, but it will be months before that

can be done or the full nerve damage assessed. "Rehabilitation for these patients is a major problem," explains Dr. Hani Abidin, the hospital's deputy director. "We just haven't got the experience or the equipment needed in this field."

Magasid, privately founded just before the 1967 war, is the best equipped and most professionally staffed hospital in the occupied territories. But the dimensions and longevity of the current uprising have left it incapable of dealing properly with cases like Nabil's.

As the main referral centre for East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the hospital has treated at least 500 patients and admitted 120 since the early December. About 90 of the admissions were suffering from gunshot wounds, the rest from severe beatings, and some from both.

"We have seen some horrendous incidents," says Dr. Abidin, an intern who was educated at Southampton University. "I especially remember one when a man was shot both in the heel and thigh, and then he was beaten so that his skull and ribs were fractured."

A recent concern is the effect of an apparently new type of gas, different from conventional tear gas in that it affects the central nervous system, causing loss of consciousness, severe dizziness and paranoid delusions. Israel

has denied that it is using a new gas.

Dr. Abidin dismisses suggestions that the Israelis are using dum-dum bullets, but makes the simple point that high-velocity military bullets always penetrate soft body tissue and invariably do severe damage to bones. Dum-dum bullets, banned by international law, tend to do more damage to tissue.

The hospital is permanently crowded. But some patients are suspicious; afraid that giving a full name may yet bring even more trouble from the Israelis.

On the second floor, two young men from the West Bank town of Halhoul lie side by side, one with a bullet wound in the heel and his pillow covered by a keffiyeh headscarf, the other shot in the right foot. Both were injured on February 27.

"We were throwing stones at the soldiers and suddenly I felt something hit my foot," says Mazen, aged 23, wincing with pain. The experience has not changed his readiness to confront the enemy again. "Do you think we will agree to give our country to these shitty Israelis? The last time, it's true, you are afraid. The next time will be easier."

Just down the corridor lies Said Abu Taha, 26, run over by an army jeep during a protest in Gaza and left a tetraplegic — paralysed from the neck down.

— The Guardian.

A battle for hearts and minds

By Jeffrey Bartholet
 Reuter

SAMOA, West Bank — Standing amid the burning tyres and scattered stones of a day's battle, the young Palestinian thought it was time for a news conference.

"We suffer from a shortage of press coverage here," he lamented, watching Palestinian flags flutter from electric wires. "Sometimes, we do something and we see no journalists at all."

Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied areas, in the fourth month of an uprising, have become increasingly conscious of the power of the media.

They fight, as the young man in Samoa said, with or without the press. But both Palestinians and Israelis acknowledge that the battle for world public opinion is an important element of the conflict.

"From a political point of view, there is a lot of damage to Israel because we are dependent almost entirely on public opinion in the United States and Europe," said Israeli reporter Danny Rubenstein, who has long covered the occupied West Bank.

With this in mind, a small army of Palestinian tipsters, bulletin writers and telephonists keep foreign and Israeli reporters abreast of rapidly developing

events.

Their information is often faster and more detailed than the sparse reports issued by the Israeli army spokesman's office.

Palestinian voice

Journalists — out of touch with villages like Samoa — often depend for news of demonstrations on the Palestine Press Service (PPS), an agency with contacts and volunteers throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PPS, which supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was founded with two journalists in 1979.

It now has 10 regular staff, as well as many trainees, and is planning to provide an electronic mailbox service to allow subscribers to access information by computer.

Despite Israeli censorship, Palestinian publications manage to promote a nationalist political agenda. PPS director Elias Zamaniri says the international impact of the uprising is not a matter of successful public relations.

"It's not a question of who is distributing the news, the question is the severity of events," he said. "The brutality of the soldiers has brought the Palestinian issue into every house in the West."

At least 91 Palestinians have been killed since widespread protests began on Dec. 9.

Dealing with journalists

The incident showed another face of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — a bloody war between two communities for the same piece of land.

Despite a flair for media relations, Palestinian protesters have not always welcomed foreign reporters.

Journalists, sometimes suspected of working for Israeli intelligence, have been shown by demonstrators. Youths have broken car windows and electronic equipment and have threatened reporters.

More often, however, Palestinians are anxious to aid reporters.

The PLO is for peace

By Anthony Lewis

TUNIS — We asked Yasser Arafat whether the Palestine Liberation Organisation was prepared to make peace with Israel.

"Yes," he said. "Definitely." If there was an agreement, did he visualise a Palestinian state living in peace with Israel next door?

"Not in Japan," he said, smiling. The PLO's policy, he said, is "land for peace" — that is, peace if Israel withdraws from the territories it occupies.

Did it follow that Israel and the Palestinian state should respect each other's borders?

"International guarantees (are) to be implemented for both of us. We are in need of the guarantees more than they."

Why, then, would he not say that he accepts United Nations Resolution 242, with its call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory to "secure and recognised" boundaries?

"I have declared it," he said. Raising his voice, he went on: "I repeat it now again. I accept all United Nations resolutions, including 242 and 338 and 605 and 607 and 608."

Resolution 242 was adopted after the 1967 war, in which Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza; its principles were reiterated in 338, approved after the 1973 war. The other three resolutions, adopted by the Security Council this past December and January, were critical of Israel's handling of Palestinian protests.

Arafat sounded surprised that anyone could be unaware of his views. He cited various documents and past statements, as is his custom.

But few Americans are familiar with such details, and even experts have found ambiguities in the PLO chairman's past comments. So in this interview Youssef Ibrahim of The New York Times and I sought clear declarative statements of present PLO policy.

We asked Arafat to imagine that he was talking to an Israeli audience, to the people of Israel. What would he say to them about the possibilities of peace? "Peace needs courageous

men," he replied. "We have it. We are waiting for the other side to have it. Are they ready?"

Could he offer Israelis hope of a peaceful life for their children? "Our children are more in need of peace than their children," he answered. "They have the upper military hand."

But both should have peace? "Definitely! Of course. I say from the beginning, peace needs courageous men. Peace for both of us."

His comments represented, I believe, Arafat's most unambiguous commitments yet to a negotiated peace with Israel.

But if he spoke positively of peace, he was very critical of Secretary of State Shultz's present initiative — because it does not include the PLO. Arafat said the idea of Palestinians attending an international peace conference as part of a Jordanian delegation was dead. A PLO delegation must represent the Palestinians.

"Why do only Palestinians have to be under a guardianship?" he asked.

Secretary Shultz went to East Jerusalem to meet a group of invited Palestinians, but they did not turn up. Why shouldn't they speak to him?

"He hasn't the right to choose the Palestinian delegation," Arafat said. "It is a matter of dignity and integrity. Can I choose the American representative? O.K., I'll deal with Jesse Jackson, who is accepting self-determination for the Palestinian people. I ha-

ven't the right to do so."

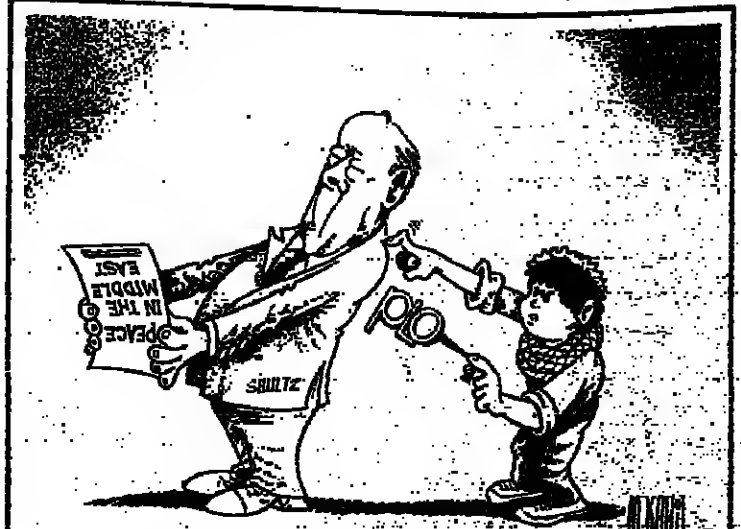
In general, Arafat seemed more relaxed and confident than he often has in interviews. He obviously took pride in the Palestinian uprising. Another reason may be that the various wings of the PLO are more unified under his leadership now than for many years. He made a point of that.

He hinted at one subject brought up in the interview: The recent attack on a bus near Dimona, the Israeli nuclear centre, for which his Fateh took responsibility. Arafat objected to the words "bus attack" and said it had been aimed at the "dangerous" Dimona facility.

He said the PLO was sticking to a 1985 promise not to make attacks outside Israel and the occupied territories. It had also given "explicit instructions" to those protesting over the last three months not to use weapons. "But you cannot expect a resistance movement to drop its arms just like that."

Under what circumstances would the PLO stop all military activity? Arafat said that was a good question, and it would not doubt be high on the agenda of a peace conference.

Listening to his main themes in this conversation, one could imagine a future in which Israel and a Palestinian state live their own national dreams in relative peace. But in the real world it is hard to see a way to that end — The New York Times.



MIDEAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Taba negotiations enter final phase

GENEVA (R) — Egypt and Israel have entered the final stretch of a long dispute over the tiny Israeli-held Taba coastal strip on the Red Sea, diplomats said. The two sides presented oral arguments before a five-member binding arbitration panel which met in the Geneva city hall Monday. The arbitrators — Sweden, a Swiss, a Frenchman, an Egyptian and an Israeli — must decide who owns the 700-metre beachfront on the edge of the Sinai peninsula, seized by Israel in its 1967 war. Israel agreed to give up the Sinai under its 1979 treaty with Egypt, but when it handed the area over in 1982 it kept Taba, which it had developed into a popular resort with a five-star hotel. The dispute has been a thorn in the sides of both countries and only in September 1986 did they agree to submit it to arbitration. An Egyptian spokeswoman said the arbitrators will hear oral arguments throughout the week. They had already received three sets of written arguments from both sides.

Tunisia denies Abu Nidal was resident

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Tunisian embassy Monday denied reports that radical Palestinian leader Abu Nidal lived in Tunis. Embassy spokesman Oussama Romdhani said there "is no reason to suggest the existence of any ties whatsoever between Tunisia and the Abu Nidal group." The Polish government announced in January that it had closed down an arms export business run out of Warsaw by Abu Nidal associates, and East European sources said they believed that Abu Nidal had gone to Tunis. State Department sources said that according to their information, Abu Nidal has resided mainly in Tripoli, Libya, since leaving Warsaw in 1985. "But someone like Abu Nidal is on the move all the time, for business and security reasons," said one State Department source.

Soviet Cultural Centre reopens in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — The Soviet Cultural Centre in Cairo, shut by Egypt for 10 years, has just reopened in a new sign of steadily improving relations, officials of both governments said Monday. It was closed in December 1977 by the late President Anwar Sadat along with other Soviet cultural centres and consulates in Egypt. Sadat had accused Moscow of orchestrating an anti-Egyptian summit in Libya which branded his 1977 trip to occupied Jerusalem as "high treason." The cultural office, near the Soviet embassy in the suburb of Giza, reopened last week and was being formally inaugurated Tuesday, an embassy spokesman said. It will lead books and show films. But, the spokesman said, "after 10 years closed, we are only starting."

Two Turkish Communist leaders indicted

ANKARA (AP) — Two Turkish Communist leaders, who were arrested after returning home from exile, were indicted Monday by a prosecutor on charges of attempting to stage a communist revolution in Turkey. Nihat Sargin, secretary-general of the outlawed Turkish Labour Party and Haydar Kutlu, secretary-general of the Turkish Communist Party in exile, have been under arrest since their arrival from West Germany last November. If convicted of the charges, each defendant could be sentenced to as long as 275 years in prison. The indictment claimed that Sargin and Kutlu "established a party with the aim of changing the constitutional order in Turkey and indulged in clandestine activities to serve their purposes." The arrival of Kutlu and Sargin came just after the executive bodies of their parties agreed abroad to merge the two organisations into a united Turkish Communist Party.

Gemayel: Western states should 'go get' hostages

PARIS (AP) — President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon said in a radio interview Tuesday that Western countries whose citizens are being held in Lebanon should go and get them, saying U.S. President Jimmy Carter at least made the effort in 1980. "One can't leave things hanging like this," Gemayel said during an interview on France Inter Radio. In a television interview 10 days ago, he said he knew where the hostages were being held. According to the Lebanese president, if the Western countries are not prepared to accept the demands of the kidnappers, they should "go get" the hostages. "In one way or another," he added, referring to the disastrous attempt to rescue American hostages held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran. "One can have other ideas."

Unknown group claims 'attack' on Israeli embassy

CAIRO (AP) — A telephone caller claimed early Tuesday that gunmen attacked the Israeli embassy in Cairo last week. The embassy denied the claim, and the Egyptian government called it a lie. The caller, a man speaking Arabic, phoned a Western news agency shortly after midnight saying he represented an organisation called "Group for Resisting Zionist Infiltration in Egypt." Such a group is not known to exist. The man did not give his name, according to an employee of the telephone agency who conveyed its contents to the AP. The man said his group "was responsible for the shooting at the Israeli embassy last Friday. The group will continue its operations to liquidate the Zionist presence in Egypt."

An Israeli embassy source, who demanded anonymity for diplomatic reasons, told the AP: "As far as we are concerned, there was no firing at the Israeli embassy last Friday." At the Interior Ministry, which controls internal security, a spokesman said: "This is a lie. Nothing of the sort happened." He spoke anonymously under ministry rules. Last Saturday and Sunday, the ministry issued statements reporting that a police officer's pistol went off accidentally as he sat in his car on university bridge beside the high-rise apartment block housing the Israeli embassy. The embassy is on the top two floors, overlooking the Nile River in suburban Giza district. The ministry statements said the officer was handling his pistol when it went off, smashing the car's windshield. They said Egyptian police guards posted outside the embassy building heard the shot and, not knowing where it came from, fired warning shots into the air. The Israeli embassy source said: "There has been no attack on the embassy. We believe the Interior Ministry statements." In telephoning the claim, the caller said "Long Live the Nasr-Egypt Revolution. Long Live the Struggle of Nasserites." Twenty members of a clandestine group known as Egypt's Revolution were indicted last month on charges they carried out four shooting attacks on Israeli and U.S. diplomats in Cairo between 1984 and 1987. Two Israeli embassy personnel were killed and another six Israelis and two U.S. diplomats were wounded. The defendants included the eldest son of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser, Khaled, who was charged with co-founding and financing the group. The indictment demanded the death sentence for him and 10 other defendants.

Israeli activists urge Jews to oppose occupation

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Jews have a moral obligation to speak out forcefully against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, prominent Israeli peace activists said Monday.

But the activists, speaking as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived here for talks with U.S. officials, said they opposed cutting economic aid to Israel as a way of pressuring Shamir to abandon his position on the occupied territories.

"On the whole, American Jews are not behind Shamir's policy," Mordechai Bar-On said at a breakfast meeting with reporters. "They must speak out now." Bar-On, former chief education officer for the Israeli military, is the founder of Peace Now, a 10-year-old group that advocates Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

The Peace Now group wants Shamir to endorse Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East peace proposal.

Giora Furman, former deputy commander of the Israeli air force, said it is unrealistic for Israel to hang on to the territories in the face of the determined Palestinian uprising. "The time is now" to provide some rights to the Palestinians, he said.

Americans could help Israel compensate for the "loss" of land by providing more economic and technological assistance, Furman said.

'Silence supports Shamir'

Silence is judged as support for Shamir's policies, they said. "I am very upset with what is happening to the American Jewish community," said Yael Dayan, the daughter of the late Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan.

She said it was "rubbish" for American Jews to hold their tongues when Israel does something morally wrong. The American Jewish community, which gives vital economic and moral support to Israel, should "stay with its conscience," she said.

Dayan said Americans should write members of Congress and Israeli leaders with their views.

Mahdi seeks new mandate, plans reform

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told Sudan's parliament Tuesday he wanted to form a new government to carry out reforms aimed at ending civil war and reviving the economy.



Sadeq Al Mahdi

Mahdi, elected in May 1986 in Sudan's first free polls in nearly two decades, said he would resign if parliament rejected his reform programme but would otherwise form a new broad-based government.

The 301-seat chamber adjourned until Monday while parliamentary groups discussed a date to debate the proposed reforms.

Mahdi's Umma Party, with 102 seats in parliament, has been the senior partner in a fragile coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which has 62 seats. Several south Sudanese parties are also represented in his cabinet.

The Umma-DUP partnership broke up last August, but the cabinet continued to function under a deal between Mahdi and DUP patron Muhammad Osman Al Mirghani.

Mahdi, who has held intensive talks with DUP leaders over the past two weeks, said in his statement differences between the parties had been settled and they agreed a more broadly based government was needed.

Mahdi also had talks Monday with Hassan Al Tourabi, leader of the main opposition National Islamic Front (NIF) party which has about 50 seats in parliament.

The prime minister said a new government, in the two years before the next parliamentary elections, should convene a long-awaited conference charged with drafting a new constitution. The new document should reconcile the country's Arabised Muslim majority in the north with its numerous religious and ethnic minorities, he said.

Mahdi said a new government would also have to formulate a new legal code to replace Islamic laws imposed in 1983 by the ousted dictator Jaafar Numeiri. The new code would ensure the civil and human rights of Sudan's non-Muslims.

The laws are at the heart of the four-year-old rebellion in the mainly animist or Christian south, where the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is fighting for a wider government role for the country's minorities.

Economic prospects

Mahdi, whose government has foreign debts of about \$12 billion, said agreement must be reached during the next two years on a proposed four-year economic recovery plan.

Sudan has said it needs \$4.8 billion to finance the plan and foreign economists in Khartoum say creditors and donors are willing to help if the country appears serious in its intentions.

Many of Sudan's 23 million people face possible starvation in western and southern regions where recurring drought and transport problems exacerbated by the war have caused widespread famine.

"I am doing everything I can for this country. But I know that this is not enough without the blessing of God and your support," Mahdi told parliament.

Rebels issue warning

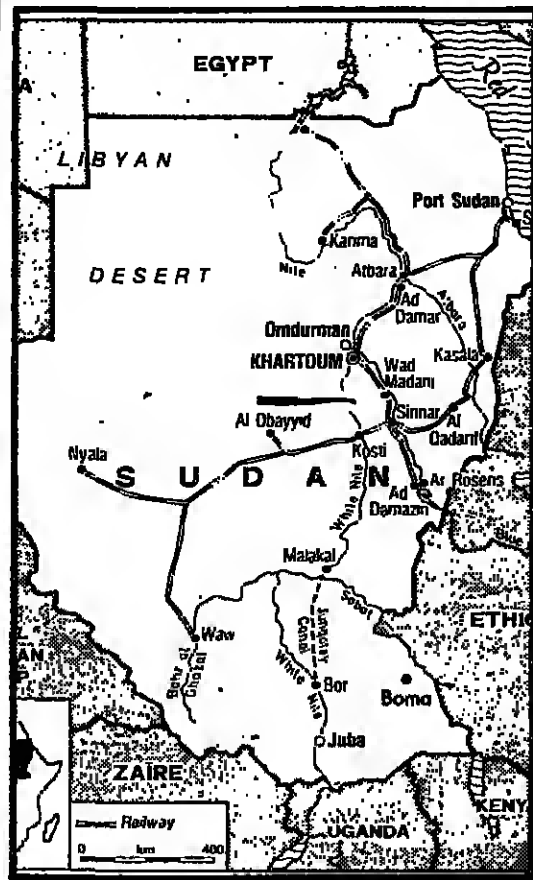
The SPLA said Monday it was about to attack the regional capital Juba and urged international relief agencies to withdraw staff and suspend flights there.

The SPLA said in a radio broadcast monitored in Nairobi that people living near army barracks and families of members of the armed forces should also leave.

Eight Western relief agencies use the town as a centre for coordinating famine relief in southern Sudan.

Radin SPLA did not say when it would attack Juba, but according to Sudanese newspapers, its forces raided the outskirts last Friday.

The SPLA has stepped up activities in the extreme south of the country and on January 12 its forces captured Kapoeta, a town near Sudan's border with Kenya and Uganda.



Shultz, Shamir reach deadlock over new American peace plan

(Continued from page 1)

country had formally rejected the new proposals.

"We have an integrated package, we believe it is a workable approach, and we won't permit any aspect of it to be eroded or compromised," the official told reporters. "... We do not have a rejection from the government of Israel. We do not have a no from any of the parties."

Shamir has said the split in Israel's government means he cannot give a formal reply to the U.S. plan during his stay in Washington.

No major revisions

The senior U.S. official said Monday the United States was not frustrated by the fact that no-one had yet replied. But he suggested the United States wanted responses soon, if only because the proposals envisaged the international meeting taking place in April.

The U.S. official, briefing reporters at the White House Monday, appeared to rule out any

major revisions in the Shultz proposal.

"We have an integrated package, we think it is a workable approach, and we won't permit any aspect of it to be eroded or compromised," said the official.

Siniora: Plan will fail

Meanwhile a Palestinian leader who favours peace talks with Israel predicted Monday that the U.S. plan would fail because it excludes the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Hanna Siniora suggested that Shultz change the plan to include the PLO as part of an Arab League-led delegation at the negotiating table.

The Shultz proposal, envisioned representation for the Palestinians in a joint delegation with Jordan, but precludes a role for the PLO.

"So far there has not been a credible effort to seek Palestinian representation," Siniora said at a news conference with Israeli peace activists who favour the Shultz plan. Siniora, an Arab Jerusalem

newspaper editor who met with Shultz in Washington earlier this year, said the secretary of state was "well informed on the issue of a joint Arab delegation" that would include the PLO.

"The present formulation won't allow peace to develop in the region," he said.

Siniora said the U.S. plan deal "with everybody except the real party that can make peace in the region."

"Without the involvement of the Palestinians, there is not going to be any peace initiative... and the Palestinians insist today that the PLO should represent them in any peace initiative," he said.

"So today it's not important — the role of Jordan or the role of Syria or the role of any other party — if there is no role for Palestinians," he added.

"Today what is possible is either a Palestinian representation on an equal footing with all the parties to the conflict, or a joint Arab delegation... where the PLO will be part of a delegation headed by the Arab League

and where Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians and the PLO would be represented," he said.

Siniora said a U.S. decision announced last Friday to shut the PLO mission at the United Nations was a "great setback" to Shultz's peace efforts.

But State Department spokesman Charles Rodman insisted the PLO mission closing "is not and should not be associated with our efforts to achieve a (peace) settlement."

Rodman dismissed a recent New York Times interview in which PLO leader Yasser Arafat said he accepted all U.N. resolutions, including 242 and 338, which recognise Israel's right to exist in return for its withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Rodman said Arafat's comments are "not as clear cut as you might imply. I think if you look at it, it contains a good bit of waffling in order to be on every side of the issue."

Siniora said that the PLO had accepted a two-state solution — an Israeli state and a Palestinian state side-by-side.

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Questions raised over political will Experts propose natural gas pipelines to link Arab World

BAGHDAD (R) — Arab experts Tuesday proposed new pipelines snaking across the Middle East and North Africa to spread natural gas wealth more evenly, but they said political snags could prevent their construction.

Pipelines costing billions of dollars could funnel Algerian gas to Spain and Portugal via Morocco and separately to Libya. Others could link rich gas fields in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kuwait, Iraq, Syria and Jordan, they said.

"The Arab World's oil and gas wealth is distributed very unevenly," said Ahmad Messili of the Algerian state energy firm, Sonatrach on the second day of an Arab energy conference.

Three states with only eight per cent of the Arab population — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE — own 90 per cent of Arab crude oil reserves.

Messili, director of gas marketing at Sonatrach, said 80 per cent of Arab gas reserves are in four countries — Algeria, Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Gas pipelines make it cheaper to generate electricity. "Why should Morocco have to import refined oil products when there are huge quantities of gas next door?" Messili asked.

Existing pipelines that proved successful carry Iraqi gas to

Kuwait, Algerian gas to Tunisia and Iraqi crude oil to an export terminal on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast.

Experts said the economics for more lines were favourable and the obstacles political. Morocco and Algeria are at odds over an Algerian-backed rebel movement fighting for independence in the Western Sahara, which Morocco claims.

"Many projects are economically feasible, but unfortunately the political will is sometimes lacking," said Abdul Latif Zarzug, director of technical affairs at the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

The Algeria-to-Spain pipeline was first mooted years ago but Messili told Reuters studies were recently revived and have the backing of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Improved political ties between Algeria, Libya and Tunisia prompted them last year to form a joint stock company to study construction of a gas line from Algeria to Libya via Tunisia.

The cost, route and capacity were still being examined, Messili said. Algerian natural gas already generates 79 per cent of Tunisia's electric power through an existing pipeline.

Fahd Shuraih of the Qatar General Petroleum Corporation suggested a pipeline stretching 1,680 kilometres from Qatar to Iraq via Kuwait at a cost of \$1.5 billion with a capacity of two billion cubic feet (70 million cubic metres) a year.

Kuwait has huge oil reserves but little gas, while Iraqi gas is not as plentiful as Qatar's.

An extended line could reach across Iraq to Syria and Jordan at a cost of \$2.5 billion with a capacity of 2.5 billion cubic feet (90 million cubic metres) a year.

But officials said such a project was a non-starter as long as relations between Iraq and Syria remain cut. Syria shut down an Iraqi oil pipeline across its territory in 1982 after ties deteriorated and was not represented at the Baghdad conference.

Zarzug, however, said joint Arab energy projects helped lay the groundwork for political cooperation. "Through these projects political tensions will be reduced because the countries will be linked economically," he told Reuters.

Electricity firm to distribute 10% a share dividend

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Jordanian Electric Power Company (JEPC) has decided to distribute JD 900,000 in dividends to the company's shareholders. The amount calculates to a 10 per cent return on the nominal value of each share, according to JEPC Board Chairman Mohammad Ali Budeir.

Budeir said the JEPC collects about JD 40 million from subscribers annually, but spends nearly JD 30 million on purchasing electric power alone excluding taxes, salaries and other expenses.

No collectors

The JEPC will no more send employees to collect dues from subscribers whose number now stands at around 300,000. Instead, the Arab Bank and the Housing Bank will carry out this task, Budeir noted.

According to JEPC Assistant Director Izzat Jakhadar a total of 72 bank branches and 12 JEPC offices around the Kingdom are involved in the process of collecting subscribers' dues.

Finnish trade team to visit next week

AMMAN (Petra) — A 20-member Finnish trade delegation is due here Saturday on a five-day visit to Jordan for talks on bolstering Jordanian-Finnish trade and economic relations.

The government, meanwhile, has decided to play host to an eight-member journalist delegation in the coming month.

The Finnish journalists will spend a week in Jordan touring archaeological and touristic sites in the Kingdom and interviewing officials and other personalities in the course of a plan to help promote the marketing of Jordanian tourist attractions abroad.

A 43-member Finnish delegation, representing the Finnish Passiviki Council, is currently on a visit to Jordan. Its members were received by His Majesty King Hussein, the prime minister and several other ministers and officials.

ILO says 2b new jobs needed by year 2030

GENEVA (AP) — Nearly two billion new jobs would have to be created by the year 2030 to attain full employment worldwide, according to a survey published Monday by the International Labour Office (ILO).

Citing data from the ILO's new statistical yearbook, the survey suggested the goal was out of reach at current levels of creating new employment.

It said that globally an average 47 million new jobs are needed each year over the next four decades to cope with population growth and to absorb the "armies of unemployed and underemployed."

The yearbook, covering data from almost 100 nations, said women and young people continue to fare worst.

It said the women's share of the workforce had increased in many parts of the world. But in some developed countries, including Belgium, Italy and Greece, jobless rates of women were more than double those of men.

The picture for young people was even grimmer.

In Spain, more than half of all teenagers and nearly half of those between the ages of 20 and 25 were unemployed in 1986.

In France, the rates were 27.5 and 16 per cent. No statistics were available for African countries where the problem is believed to be most serious in the Third World.



Jordan Press Foundation (JPF) Chairman Mahmoud Al Kayed presides over a JPF general assembly meeting Monday. To his right is Companies' Controller Radi Ibrahim and to his left is board member and Director General Mohammad Al Amad and JPF Administrative Manager Nader Horani.

Jordan Press Foundation approves '87 financial results

AMMAN (J.T.) — A meeting by the Jordan Press Foundation's (JPF) general assembly has approved the 1987 financial accounts and endorsed the recommendation to distribute dividends to shareholders at the rate of 22 per cent.

The meeting, presided by JPF Board Chairman Mahmoud Al Kayed, approved the appointment of Fahd Al Fanek company to serve as auditors for the company's 1988 operations.

Nearly 84.5 per cent of the total number of shareholders attended the meeting.

The annual report shows that JPF sells about 80,000 copies of Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times each day.

The report estimates that 500,000 persons daily read the two sister newspapers.

Jordan pursues drive to link power grid with Arab states

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national power grid is linked to that of Syria and work is underway for linking it with Egypt, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Power Distribution Department Director Rihhi Hamed.

Hamed explained that Jordan's grid was connected with Syria's in 1981 with a 230 kilovolt line and the two countries have since been exchanging power supplies whenever there was need for such action. He said that upon a recommendation from the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in 1986, Cairo and Amman have decided to embark on measures for linking their national grids and to upgrade their transformer and generating stations.

Hamed said that contacts between Jordan and Saudi Arabia have led to initial agreement on linking the two countries' grids, and studies on the subject are to begin early next month.

Housing Bank boasts big network, high participation in diversified projects

AQABA (J.T.) — The Housing Bank's 1987 financial report shows that it has contributed JD 26.9 million to housing projects in the country in addition to other loans to individuals to build their own homes.

The report, read out at an annual Housing Bank meeting held in Aqaba over the past two days under the chairmanship of the bank's General Manager Zuhair Khouri, reveals that the Housing Bank now has 61 branches around the country's urban, rural and badia regions.

Khouri noted that the number corresponds to nearly 39 per cent of the total banking network in the country.

The two-day meeting concentrated on the bank's future plans and development programmes.

Two working papers on the Housing Bank's future work and services were reviewed by the participants.

British government splits over monetary strategy

LONDON (AP) — The Conservative government has split over how to handle the surging pound in a dispute overshadowing Tuesday's boom-time budget and its expected tax bonanzas for the wealthy.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's willingness to let the pound soar unchecked has also thrown in doubt the future of her top treasury official, Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson.

Published reports said Lawson is so angry at Mrs. Thatcher overruling his policy of keeping sterling in line with the Deutsche mark that he may make Tuesday's annual spring budget his last. Lawson is ranked among Britain's most able treasury officials since World War II.

The stark fact is that the prime minister and the chancellor are in open conflict over a crucial part of our economic policy," said John Smith, finance spokesman for the main opposition Labour Party.

Government officials, speaking on conditions of anonymity, acknowledged the split that one described as a "healthy argument."

The government split was revealed in parliament last week when Mrs. Thatcher rejected Bank of England intervention, such as selling pounds or reducing interest rates to make sterling less attractive to foreign investors.

Mrs. Thatcher believes that lower interest rates will encourage borrowing and fuel inflation, now at a low 3.3 per cent. Curbing inflation has been a cornerstone of her tight-fisted economic policies since she won power in 1979.

Lawson's strategy has been to keep sterling, which traded Monday at 3.08 marks, around 3 marks.

Britain is not a member of the exchange mechanism of the European Monetary System, which links eight other major European currencies, including the mark, in a stabilising arrangement.

Bill Martin, chief economist at stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, said Mrs. Thatcher's stance has aggravated the problems caused by a high pound.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8515/25	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2560/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6645/52	Deutschmarks
	1.8700/10	Dutch guilders
	1.3755/65	Swiss francs
	34.79/84	Belgian francs
	5.6540/70	French francs
	1232/1233	Italian lire
	127.00/10	Japanese yen
	5.9210/60	Swedish crowns
	6.3310/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.3710/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	442.40/442.90	U.S. dollars

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading in the Amman Financial Market amounted to 357,873 shares sold for JD 352,616 through 488 contracts. Trading at the parallel market improved Tuesday with 161,498 shares sold for JD 840,066. The Intermediate Petrochemical Industries Company recorded the highest figures of 33,550 shares, JD 49,028 and 49,000 contracts. Traded shares of the Jordan Brick and Silicate Brick Industries company totalled 143,150 but the volume was only 35,790 and 57 contracts. In terms of volume and number of contracts, the Universal Chemical Industries Company ranked second with a volume of JD 35,955 and 20,150 shares, and 71 contracts, followed by the Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries with a total of 143,150 shares and JD 35,790. The number of development bond shares traded Tuesday was 10 and the volume of trade was JD 106.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed slightly weaker in subdued trade, dragged down by falls among leading miners and selected industrials. The All Ordinaries index ended 3.3 points down at 1,358.7.

TOKYO — Aggressive buying of large capitalisation issues sent the Nikkei share index up in robust trade. It rose 42.16 points, or 0.17 per cent to 25,475.77. Rises matched falls in volume of 1.7 billion shares.

HONG KONG — Late Bargain hunting lifted prices from their early lows to close little changed. The Hang Seng index shed 5.76 points to end at 2,578.92.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed marginally lower on sporadic profit-taking by small investors in relatively quiet trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.84 points to 944.12.

BOMBAY — Exchange closed by nation-wide strike. Reopens on Wednesday.

FRANKFURT — Shares extended opening gains to end sharply higher in moderate trading as the firmer dollar encouraged investors to buy despite good reasons for caution. The Commerzbank index at mid-session was up 18.6 at 1,409.2.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly firmer across the board on fairly high turnover, helped by a firming dollar and a positive trend on Wall Street.

PARIS — Shares ended a 0.24 per cent down in very quiet trade with most operators remaining sidelined amid pre-election uncertainty and ahead of the publication of U.S. trade figures.

LONDON — Equities were spurred to the day's highs with Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's budget speech. At 1603 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up a net 21.5 points at 1,841.

NEW YORK — Stocks still showed little change with blue chips trading around Monday's closing level. The Dow 30 was unchanged at 2050 while declining and gaining issues were in balance.

Bahrain's Al UBAF bank raises loan reserves, reports lower profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Al UBAF Arab International Bank reported Tuesday a strong rise in underlying earnings during 1987 but declared sharply lower net profit after more than doubling provisions against bad and doubtful debts.

The Bahrain-based offshore bank, part of the Al UBAF Banking Group, said profits before provisions rose 21.6 per cent to \$9.57 million, but net profit fell to \$573,000 from \$3.87 million in 1986.

Loan provisions were boosted by \$9.0 million after \$4.0 million in 1986, taking total provisions since the bank was founded in 1982 to \$15.8 million.

General Manager Patrick Mason told Reuters the extra provisions took cover to nearly six per cent of total loans.

That is below some of the higher offshore banks in Bahrain where provisions are now around 20 per cent of Third World exposure, but Al UBAF has concentrated on trade finance in the Arab World and has few loans outstanding to Latin America.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, the world's 30th in terms of assets at the end of 1987, reported a major increase in profits in 1987 because of improved performances in traditional banking operations, especially in Hong Kong and South East Asia.

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هذه اذاعة صوت

U.S. sends troops to Panama

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States sent modest military reinforcements to Panama Monday and also pledged immediate steps to help restore Panama's banking system if civilian democracy is established.

The U.S. Defence Department said a 55-person marine anti-terrorist unit and a 45-person air force security group had been sent to Panama early Monday to support 10,000 American troops already there.

A Pentagon spokesman, Commander Robert Prucha, said the types of units being sent did not mean the United States was responding to either a terrorist or air force security threat.

He said the marines are essentially military police and the security group would be used as needed at Howard Air Force Base in Panama, were a total of some 50,000 Americans live.

"This is just a prudent measure to augment the security personnel that are currently down there," he said.

"When you've got people who are not being paid, when electricity is being shut off you don't know what might happen," he said. "So we thought it would be better to be safe than sorry."

The Washington Post quoted deposed Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle as saying he was prepared to request stronger U.S. measures, short of military intervention, if Noriega did not accept a plan under which he would leave Panama immediately.

The newspaper quoted Delvalle as saying in written replies to questions that the plan would allow Noriega to live in a safe haven abroad, and the United States would agree not to extradite him to face drug trafficking charges.

Earlier, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States would take immediate steps to help restore Panama's banking system if military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega is ousted and civilian democracy established in Panama.

Redman said he was confident Panama could recover from the financial chaos created since

U.S.-backed opposition forces began an economic warfare campaign to force Noriega from power.

"In event of a successful democratic transition, the U.S. government would be prepared to take immediate steps to help Panamanians restore order to the banking system," he said.

Redman also lauded Spain's offer to grant asylum to Noriega, who had been indicted in Florida on drug trafficking and racketeering charges, if he steps down and leaves Panama. "Spain's efforts to facilitate a democratic tradition in Panama are certainly praiseworthy," he said.

Teachers demonstrate

Meanwhile, in Panama City riot police used tear gas and truncheons to disperse hundreds of public school teachers who blocked traffic and demanded their wages from the cash-strapped government.

The violence, which occurred Monday outside the ministry of education, was the first time in nine months of continuing civil disturbances in Panama that a disturbance occurred in the central business district of the

capital.

In Colon, 80 kilometres north of Panama City, teachers demanding to be paid temporarily blocked a major highway leading into the city Monday. Pro-government gangs demanding free food for government workers reportedly attacked two supermarkets, injuring five employees, one seriously.

The government Monday began selling sacks of food, called "dignity bags," to unpaid workers. Some schoolteachers, telephone company and more than 1,000 dock workers demanded cash and struck to reinforce their demand.

Mediation offer

Also Monday Roman Catholic church leaders in Panama City, who have called on Noriega to step down, offered to mediate talks between the military strongman and opposition political groups demanding his ouster.

But church officials also said that it may be difficult "to build a silver bridge for (Noriega) to leave," now that the United States has indicted Noriega on drug trafficking and money laundering charges.

Botha rejects clemency appeals

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The South African government confirmed Tuesday that President P.W. Botha has rejected appeals to spare "The Sharpeville Six," a group of blacks whose scheduled hanging Friday stirred widespread protest.

The Justice Ministry said any further petitions for mercy would be given "careful consideration."

The disclosure Monday that an execution date had been set for the six prompted an outcry in South Africa and abroad. The condemned prisoners include five men and 26-year-old Theresa Ramashamola, the only woman on death row in South Africa.

The six were convicted in connection with the killing of black township councillor Jabo Dlamini in Sharpeville, about 64 kilometres south of Johannesburg, on Sept. 3, 1984.

No evidence was produced that six were among those who hacked and burned Dlamini to death.

They were convicted under the doctrine of "common purpose," which holds they were responsible for the killing by being part of the mob that gathered outside Dlamini's home with the intent to kill him.

Edwin Cameron, a lawyer affiliated with Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand, said that "No people in South African history have been hanged for mere cursory participation in a crime."

Helen Suzman, veteran Parliament member from the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party, said the executions would have a devastating effect on international opinion.

The Reverend Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said clemency was warranted "not as a public issue but purely on the facts of the case."

U.S. presidential candidate Paul Simon said Monday that President Ronald Reagan should urge a halt to the executions.

"Clearly, if this happens in South Africa, it is going to produce more bloodshed," Simon said while campaigning in Chicago.

Britain's Conservative Party government expressed hope that South Africa would call off the hounds, and about 100 lawmakers of Britain's opposition Labour Party signed a statement condemning the planned executions.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, urged Botha to spare the six. The organisation expressed shock that 104 people, only nine of them white, were hanged in South Africa last year.

Vietnam, China swap charges over clash

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam and China accused each other Tuesday of provoking naval clashes over strategic and potentially rich islands in the South China Sea.

Western diplomats in Bangkok expressed surprise at the timing of the incident and said the countries' once-bloody dispute over the islands had for months been merely a war of words.

Chinese warships opened fire on two Vietnamese freighters in the Spratly Islands Monday morning, and the Vietnamese shot back in self defence, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Hanoi radio said.

Chinese authorities should withdraw their warships from Vietnamese territorial waters at once. "They must bear full responsibility for all the consequ-

ences arising from their military provocations," the broadcast, monitored here, said.

China reasserted its claim to the islands and called on Vietnam to withdraw.

"Vietnam must immediately stop its armed provocations against China in the waters of the Nansha (Spratly) Islands," the Communist Party's People's Daily said Tuesday.

China and the former South Vietnamese Republic fought a brief but fierce battle over the islands in 1974.

The Spratly and nearby Paracel Islands are of strategic importance and may be rich in oil, Western diplomats said, but various parts are claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and the Philippines.

U.S.: Angola peace proposal inadequate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States said Monday that a new southern Africa peace plan advanced by Angola does not provide an adequate timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the region.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that while he could not go into detail about the proposal, "it does not in our view provide concrete, realistic calendars for the withdrawal of Cuban forces," who have been backing Angolans.

Asked if Washington was disappointed, however, he seemed to hold out hope, saying: "We're still at work on this."

Redman confirmed that the United States, in a drive to forge a peace settlement in the last 10 months before President Reagan leaves office, had sent a working group to Luanda to meet with the Angolans and Cubans.

He said the new Angolan proposal, presented to the U.S. group in Luanda as a "preliminary working paper," reiterated many elements of previous Angolan

positions and appears to break no new ground on the key question of a realistic proposal for withdrawal of Cuban military forces from Angola.

The Reagan administration's top Africa expert, Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, was in Geneva Monday to brief South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha on American efforts to mediate a settlement in the southern Africa conflict.

Washington and Pretoria have linked South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia (South West Africa), which it occupies in defiance of U.N. resolutions, to withdrawal of an estimated 40,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Botha denies proposal

In Geneva, Botha Monday denied the Angolan government had made detailed proposals aimed at a Cuban troop withdrawal, but said a timetable for a pullout remains a key issue in efforts to bring peace to southern Africa.

Shultz upholds INF

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Monday rejected claims that the administration of President Ronald Reagan has misrepresented the worth of the new arms reduction treaty with Moscow.

Shultz said that over the last seven weeks the case has been made and proven that the pact enhances U.S. national security, arguing it is clear that Soviet compliance with its terms can be effectively verified.

Summing up the case for the treaty in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Shultz said the pact —

which bans medium-range, nuclear-armed missiles worldwide — "stands up well."

"I believe that as it considers all the relevant evidence, this committee should recommend consent to ratification of this treaty, without amendments or conditions," Shultz said.

But he bristled after hearing conservative Republican Senator Jesse Helms declare that there is "a wide gap between the administration's public representations about the treaty and the information which we have received in closed session."

Protestants stone IRA coffins

BELFAST (R) — Protestant demonstrators threw stones and hurled abuse Tuesday at the coffins of three Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas brought back to Belfast for burial.

The bodies of the three, killed on an abortive bombing mission in the British rock colony of Gibraltar, returned home as British soldiers shot dead an IRA sniper in Belfast.

Police in Northern Ireland mounted a massive security operation as thousands of IRA sympathisers lined the route home from Dublin Airport.

Hundreds of extra troops and police in riot gear were called in to guard the cortege which was stoned by Protestant youths who waved British Union Jack flags and cursed the dead guerrillas. None of the coffins was hit.

In Belfast, an IRA sniper became the guerrilla group's 19th casualty in 12 months when shot dead by patrolling troops.

Police in Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city, also uncovered a bomb-making factory with rocket launchers, incendiary devices and grenades.

In the Irish Republic, where police surveillance of the cortege was low-key, about 10,000 people lined the streets of towns leading to the border in silent tribute to the guerrillas.

Soviet official: Pogroms in Sumgait

MOSCOW (R) — The deputy prosecutor-general of the Soviet Union has confirmed that pogroms took place in Sumgait, the Azerbaijani city where 32 people died in ethnic unrest, a newspaper reaching Moscow Tuesday said.

"Large-scale unrest took place in Sumgait, accompanied by pogroms, arson, and other atrocities," Deputy Prosecutor Alexander Katushev told the Azerbaijani newspaper Bakinsky Rabochy.

Armenians who fled the Sumgait area and came to Moscow have spoken of pogroms during the Feb. 28 disorders, saying Armenians were bunted down and killed by Azerbaijanis.

But it was the first time that a

Soviet official had used the word pogrom to describe last month's events in Sumgait, a Caspian Sea industrial port north of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku.

Earlier this month, the Kremlin confirmed that there had been 32 deaths in Sumgait in the worst ethnic disturbances in the Soviet Union since the civil war that followed the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

Two Azerbaijani youths had died earlier in unrest which broke out over the proposed redrawing of boundaries between the two neighbouring Soviet republics, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Katushev's remarks were contained in the March 12 edition of Bakinsky Rabochy, a newspaper

published in Baku. The paper reached Moscow Tuesday.

The deputy prosecutor said that investigators from his office were in Sumgait and a number of people have been arrested, but did not say how many.

The Kremlin said earlier this month that troops had restored order in the riot-torn city.

The crimes committed were state offences for which the law provided "strict punishment," Katushev said. Many of those involved were underage people who "under the instigation of hooligan elements committed the most grave crimes," he said.

The March 11 edition of the same newspaper said that average age of those arrested was 20.

Fiji seen recovering from coup

SUVA (R) — Fiji has recovered from a period of turmoil and plans to seek ways to renew links with the British crown, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamesese Mara said Tuesday.

In a national broadcast he said he would accompany President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau to London in the next few weeks for consultations "with the appropriate authorities" on restoring traditional links with Britain's monarchy.

Mara said the South Pacific island state was rapidly repairing its shattered economy after two military coups last year. After the second coup in September, the

country declared itself a republic and was thrown out of the commonwealth, a grouping of Britain and its former colonies.

Mara was reporting to the nation about the political and economic situation 100 days after he was installed as head of a military-backed interim administration. He did not go into detail on the economy.

Fiji would never return to the dominion status under which Britain's Queen Elizabeth was its head of state, he said. It would establish a new constitution which would take into account the realities of the situation.

The leader of the coups, Brigadier-General Sitiveni Rabuka,

has insisted that the constitution should give indigenous Fijians political supremacy over ethnic Indians who slightly outnumber them.

"The interim administration is firmly committed to exploring every possible avenue of an acceptable arrangement which would allow the entire people of Fiji the opportunity to be able to show in the most direct way their continuing loyalty to and affection for the British crown," he said.

Mara said his government hoped to hold elections and restore parliamentary democracy in the next two years.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

One step closer to emergency rule

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling party Tuesday cleared a major hurdle to imposing emergency rule in the north Indian state of Punjab where Sikh militants are fighting for an independent homeland. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party pushed through a constitution amendment bill in the upper house of Parliament and secured a two-thirds majority needed for it. Almost the entire opposition walked out when the bill was put to a vote. It empowers the government to abridge fundamental rights and suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Punjab, where the state assembly has been dissolved, is being ruled directly by New Delhi and the government is using anti-terrorism laws to detain people without trial. The bill would now be sent to the lower house where Gandhi's party has a four-fifths majority in the 543-seat house. It will become law when the lower house vote approvals and the president of India gives his assent.

China to send delegation to Pyongyang

PEKING (R) — China plans to send a high-level delegation on a sensitive fence-mending mission to North Korea after parliament ends its annual session in Peking next month, diplomats said Tuesday. Li Peng is expected to head the Chinese side, making his first foreign visit since he became acting premier last November, Asian and Western diplomats said. They said ties have been troubled this year by China's growing trade with South Korea, its refusal to join North Korea's boycott of the 1988 Olympics in Seoul and its reticence in defending Pyongyang against charges that North Korean agents destroyed a South Korean airliner last November.

Sri Lankan rebels kill 20 villagers

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels have shot and hacked to death 20 villagers, including women and children, in the past two days, Sri Lankan military officials said Tuesday. Military sources said about six guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed three farmers working on paddy fields at Kivulakada, east Sri Lanka, just past noon Tuesday while a second group of rebels shot dead four people, including an infant, in a house in the same village. The dead were all Sinhalese — the majority community which dominates Sri Lanka's government.

Thatcher meets Wu

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher conferred Monday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and questioned him about anti-Chinese rioting in Tibet, officials said. A spokesman at Thatcher's 10 Downing St. office said the talks, including the exchanges on Tibet, were "extremely friendly." The hour-long meeting came on the eve of Wu's departure after a six-day visit to Britain. Thatcher and Wu also discussed Hong Kong, the colony which Britain is due to hand over to China

in 1997. China has promised to maintain Hong Kong's capitalist system for 50 years and not impose Communist rule.

Senate working on immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sixteen months after Congress enacted a law to control illegal immigration, the Senate has started work on legislation to change the system for foreigners who want to enter the United States legally. The bill would maintain priority for applicants with family ties to relatives living legally in the United States. But it also would make available more visas for a new category of "independent" immigrants, those accepted because of their skills, education, age and other factors. This would have the effect of admitting more Western Europeans, who have been shortchanged under the current system that is so heavily weighted toward family reunification. Currently, 90 per cent of legal immigration is based on family ties, with only 10 per cent selected on the needs of the labour market. At present, 85 per cent of U.S. immigrants come from Latin America and Asia. Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Alan K. Simpson, the two leading Senate authorities on immigration, joined Monday as bipartisan sponsors of the bill.

Marcos says no overthrow

HONOLULU (AP) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who is negotiating his return to his homeland, said he would not resort to violence to topple the government of Corason Aquino. Marcos' statement, released through a spokesman Monday, came a day after supporters published a full-page advertisement defending Marcos against a critical newspaper editorial that was published earlier this month. "I have no plans of taking over the government if I go back to the Philippines," Marcos said. "This is my unequivocal answer to everyone, including my most bitter critics, who continue to claim and advance the idea that I am bent on taking control through violent means."

Buthelezi may get tough with Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, regarded as South Africa's most important black moderate, said Tuesday he would abandon his approach if Pretoria continued its crackdown on black dissent. "I am beginning to dread the day when I will have to abandon a willingness to compromise and... gather the people together to lead them in practical non-violent action," Buthelezi told legislators in the tribal homeland of KwaZulu. He said the effective banning last month of 17 political organisations and a labour federation left him "more alienated from the state president (P.W. Botha) than I have ever felt." The Zulu leader is considered a crucial figure in government plans to promote black-white political dialogue.

Peter O'Toole wants an oscar, but is happy just acting

By Vira Lynn Jones
Reuter

NEW YORK — Peter O'Toole sat groggy eyed in an early morning interview, chain-smoking cigarettes for breakfast.

The 55-year-old was mumbling that he would "love to have an Oscar" but the seven-time nominee didn't have "the faintest idea" why the coveted award continually slips through his grasp.

Even though "The Last Emperor" is in the running for nine Academy Awards, more than any other film this year, O'Toole was not nominated for his portrayal of Reginald "R.J." Johnston, the Scottish tutor of China's young emperor.

But, said the lanky Irishman, he is not concerned with accepting roles that might give him a shot at an Oscar. He's just happy with any opportunity to act.

"Whether it's radio, television or theatre," O'Toole said, "I'm from a generation of actors who have multiple forms of expression. But the form I prefer is the theatre."

O'Toole was in New York on a break from his forthcoming movie comedy, "High Spirits," being filmed in Ireland and England. It also stars Darryl Hannah and Steven Guttenberg.

"I'm playing an Anglo-Irish owner of a rather dilapidated castle," O'Toole told Reuters. "He's looking for ways of cheering up the castle. So, he comes up with the idea of inhabiting it with ghosts."

As for "The Last Emperor," O'Toole said he decided to tackle the role because "it was a remarkable yarn — a Cinderella fairytale in reverse."



Peter O'Toole

"It was an amazing story set in this 15th century Ming maze of palaces," he said. "To us Westerners, it was an Oriental fairytale that took place in a span of a few years of our lifetime."

Johnston became Emperor Pu Yi's tutor when the boy was 13. He remained as teacher, friend and adviser for 12 years, during the collapse of the Chinese Empire.

During research for "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962) — one of several memorable roles that earned him an Oscar nomination but not the award — O'Toole mastered bedouin tribal customs, attained some fluency in Arabic, and learned to ride a camel.

He approached his three-month role in China, however, more subtly, delving into Chinese history books in order to understand the complexity of his role and the country.

"Every day I felt there was another book to read to shed some light on this ignorance (about China) descending upon me," he said.

O'Toole said of Johnston: "He was a senior colonial figure who

disgraced himself by publishing a pamphlet in Chinese attacking the role of the missionary."

Johnston wanted to be governor of Hong Kong, but it looked like he had blown his career. He was given an opportunity to mould the great radical forces in China by becoming Pu Yi's tutor.

"If you look at the man Peter O'Toole, he would love to have had such an opportunity."

After receiving acclaim and four Oscar nominations in the 1960s for "Lawrence of Arabia," "Becket," "Goodbye Mr. Chips," and "The Lion in Winter" — O'Toole's career faltered.

In the 1970s, he got another Oscar nomination for "The Ruling Class," but during most of the decade, his were outnumbered by flops.

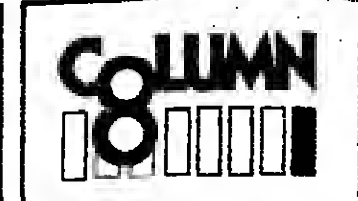
Doctors also told O'Toole that he would be dead within a few weeks from blood cancer, an incorrect diagnosis.

O'Toole lit another cigarette and said slowly, as if reciting Shakespeare, "one's redemption is a good role in a good play which is successful."

For Johnston, his role seemed to have been blown. He found redemption by becoming the emperor's tutor.

"In my case or in any actor's case, if one has a lean time, if the opportunity comes along to be in something excellent and it is an excellent work, then redemption comes."

His own redemption began in the 1980s with "The Stunt Man" which brought him a sixth Oscar nomination. Number seven came for "My Favourite Year" in which O'Toole played Alan Swann, a swashbuckling, boozy matinee idol.



Darden executed despite appeals

STARKE, Florida (AP) — Convicted murderer Willie Jasper Darden, who maintained his innocence through 14 years on death row and became the focus of an international debate on capital punishment, was executed Tuesday morning in Florida's electric chair. Darden, 54, was convicted of fatally shooting businessman James C. Turman while robbing his wife of \$15 in September 1973. On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a federal judge and the state supreme court rejected Darden's appeals. To the end, Darden denied killing Turman. The Darden case became focus of an international campaign against capital punishment. Pope John Paul II and Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov had made appeals on his behalf. Death penalty opponents said Darden was railroaded because he was black, and that he was innocent of murder and had an alibi to prove it.

Drunk driving laws save lives

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. drunk driving laws adopted in the early 1980s have kept alcohol-impaired drivers off the roadways and saved thousands of lives, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said Monday. The insurance industry-supported group said a study it conducted showed that 1,600 drivers who would have been in fatal U.S. alcohol-related accidents in 1985 were kept off the road by new drunk driving laws and toughened old laws. It said immediate suspension of drunk drivers' licenses, mandatory jail terms and tougher blood-alcohol tests enacted since the early 1980s have been successful in reducing the incidence of drunk driving. Immediate suspension of a drunk driver's license by the police at the time of arrest was the most effective measure studied, reducing driver involvement in fatal accidents at high-risk hours by nine per cent, the institute said.

Good omen for Bertolucci

LOS ANGELES (R) — Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci has won top honours at the Directors Guild of America Awards, making him a strong favourite to be named Best Director at next month's Oscars. The guild, at its annual awards ceremony Saturday night, named Bertolucci Best Director for his lavish epic "The Last Emperor." Only three times in the 40-year history of the awards has the guild's choice for Best Director failed to win the same honour at the Academy Awards.

Bakker returns to pulpit

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Jim Bakker has returned to the pulpit for the first time in more than a year, preaching from a small wooden lectern to elderly, sunnied retired people at a trailer park in California. Tammy Faye Bakker introduced her husband to the crowd of 225 campers at a service Sunday in Niland, California, according to a report in Monday's editions of the Charlotte Observer newspaper. "This has been a long, hard year for us," Mrs. Bakker said. "It hasn't been easy... I am very happy to introduce to you my husband. I would like to welcome him back to the place where he belongs, in the pulpit, ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Fromme without remorse

BECKLEY, West Virginia (AP) — A jury has found Manson disciple and would-be presidential assassin Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme guilty of escaping from a federal prison. "I'm guilty as charged, legally, and without remorse morally, so that's that," Fromme, acting as her own lawyer, said Monday in closing arguments. Fromme, 39, a disciple of mass murderer Charles Manson, is serving a life sentence for a 1975 assassination attempt against former president Gerald Ford. She escaped Dec. 23 from the federal correctional institution at Alderson, West Virginia, and was captured a short distance away three days later. Fromme called only herself a witness.